



CHRISTMAS

WITH THE SUPER-HEROES™

1
1988

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



CHRISTMAS WITH THE SUPER-HEROES™ 1988

BATMAN in "Wanted: Santa Claus—Dead or Alive!"
From DC SPECIAL SERIES #21, 1979

JUSTICE LEAGUE in "The Man Who Murdered Santa Claus!"
From JUSTICE LEAGUE #110, March-April, 1974

TEEN TITANS in "The TT's Swingin' Christmas Carol!"
From TEEN TITANS #13, January-February, 1968

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES in "Star Light, Star Bright..."
From DC SPECIAL SERIES #21, 1979

SUPERMAN in "'Twas the Fright Before Christmas!"
From DC COMICS PRESENTS #67, March, 1984

BATMAN in "The Silent Night of the Batman"
From BATMAN #219, February, 1970

Keith Wilson
 Christine Quaresima
 Karen Buge
 Jonathan Peterson
 Mike  REAVEN
 Carol Vozgo
 Daniel Don Casper
 Ben Czel
~~Robert P. Kell~~
 J. E. Glenn
 188
 GHAUMAN
 Ronnie Carlin
 Tammy Brown
 Janice Walker
~~Phil Frenking~~
 Roe Blauvelt
 Marie Rand
 Maurea Healy

So it's a few years ago and it's Christmas Eve Day and I'm in California, which, for all its wonderfulness every other time of the year, has got to be one of the most dismal places in America to spend Christmas. It's 84 degrees outside, just as sunny as can be, no Christmas in the air at all, and I'm about as jolly as a reindeer with the mange. The only snow within 300 miles was the snow job I buried my friends in last week when I insisted that no, I'd be *just fine*, don't worry about *me*, which is what I whined as I drove them to the airport so they could run off to spend the holiday with *their* loved ones while I sat at home.

Too poor to even afford a Christmas tree, I'd jury-rigged one by stringing lights and balls around a wire comic-book spinner rack. "Hey, kids! Christmas!" In retrospect, it looked pretty pathetic and it's a minor Christmas miracle in itself that I didn't send 120 AC volts through myself when I plugged the thing in—but one does what one can in a pinch.

At the time, in my pre-credit card days, my place looked like Gandhi's first apartment after college. I had a chair, a radio, a night stand, and 12,000 comic books. And some forks. I had some forks. And an electrified Christmas tree. Which was a real crime, and I don't mean to go on and on about it, but Christmas is *really* cool and my *favorite* time of year and here I'm standing in an apartment that looked like the set from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

So I decided to read and get my mind off things. I dug and I dug through 12,000 comics and against my better judgement pulled a fistful of holiday stories featuring Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, the Spirit, and so forth and so on. I spent most of the night going over Christmas comics, some I hadn't looked at for years.

I really don't know what I was expecting...but I came away feeling a little bit better. Sure it was all cheap melodrama, but I'm a soft touch for Capraesque schmaltz in the first place, and reading simple stories about Superman and his compatriots teaching kids the true meaning of Christmas just somehow hit all the buttons I needed hit that night.

To this day I'm puzzled and a little embarrassed that a grown-up Mark Waid managed to somehow find comfort in a man who dresses up like a bat every night...but, for what it was worth, it was a Christmas that was slightly less empty, and regardless of how ludicrous the reason, I remain grateful.

From all of us to all of you—DC Comics wishes you the happiest of holidays.

Mark Waid

Phat Time
 Shelley E. Ober
 Julius Schwartz
 Steve Kalk
 Phil Frenking
 Roni Wittenstatter
 Roger Antkowiak
 Lee Rizzo
 Richard
 Linda
 Gary Howard
 Robert

DENNY
 Bob
 Mark Lerer
 Kelly Rooley
 Bob LeRose
 Pat B. Astennia
 Dan Wynn
 Bob Wayne
 JOHN WICKMAN

Barbara Lyons
 Carol Fein
 Jerry CERDO
 Sidney Heller
 Chantal d'Almeida
 Don Lambert
 John Wren
 Peggy
 Jerry Cunningham
 Mary
 Art Young
 Alysia Baetford
 Albert de Guzman
 Maurice Bruckman
 Paul Levitz
 Dick Scordato
 Roger Mc Gardner
 Kerchi Thomas
 Mike Bold
 Mary Roberts
 Julie
 John

BATMAN

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

CHRISTMAS EVE IN GOTHAM:

FIRST, A LAYER OF PALE SNOW HAD TOUCHED THE CITY, AND NOW SLEET THE COLOR OF STEEL SLANTS ACROSS THE STREETS FROM THE NORTH...

SILENT AS A CHILD'S PRAYER, THE BATMAN GLIDES THROUGH THE SHADOWED AVENUES, THINKING...

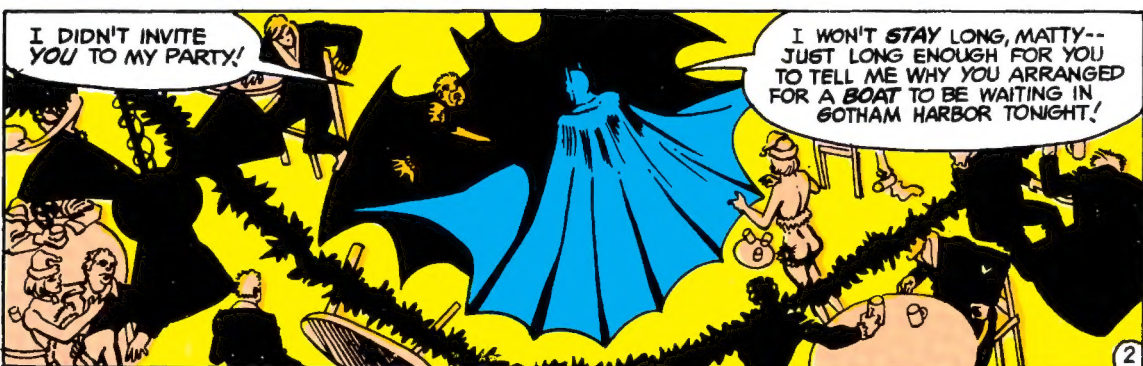
CHRISTMAS OR NO, CRIME GOES ON! SOMEBODY EVEN STOLE THE STAR FROM THAT NATIVITY SCENE!

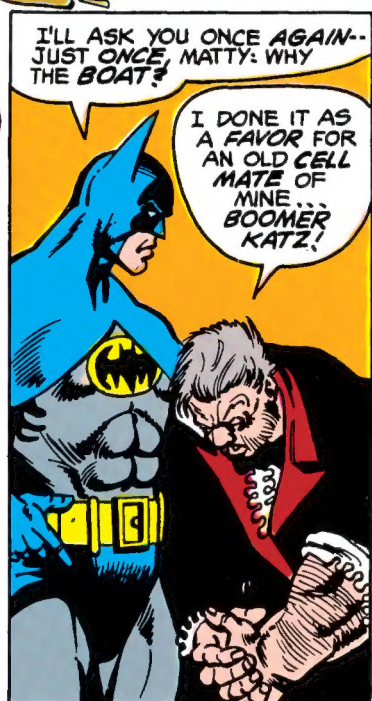
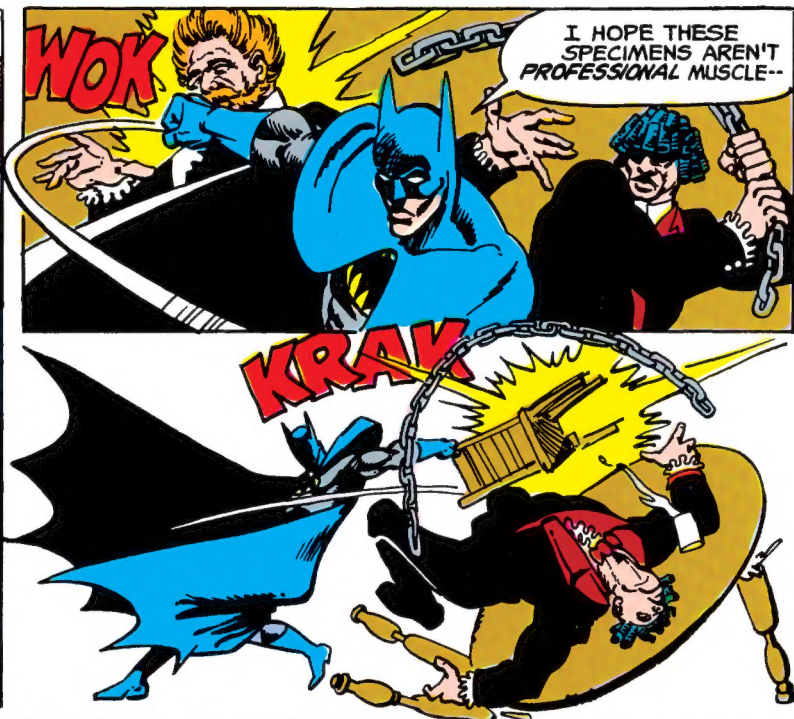
WELL, I CAN'T BE CONCERNED WITH THAT NOW! I'VE GOT A BIGGER PROBLEM!

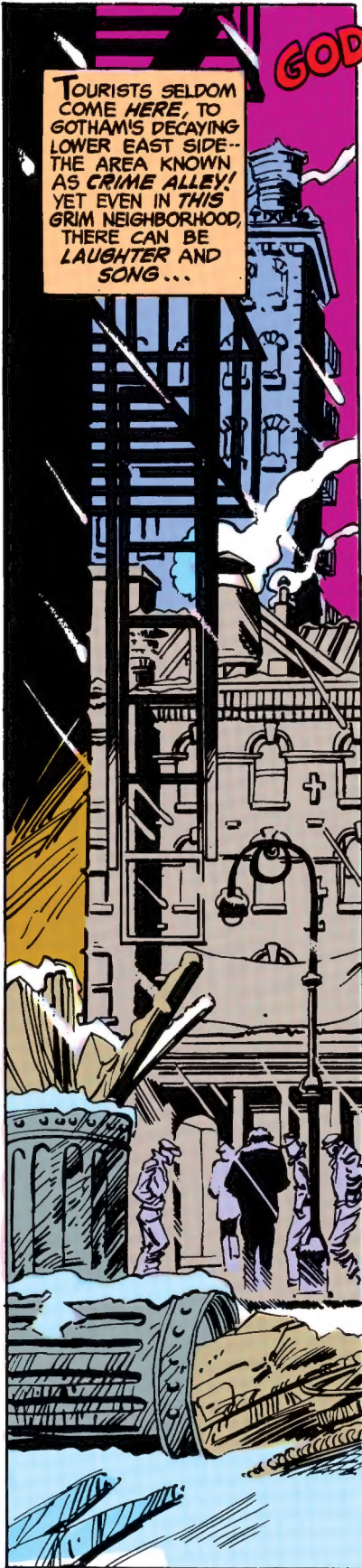
Canadian Club

WANTED: **SANTA CLAUS** -- DEAD OR ALIVE!

DENNY O'NEIL - FRANK MILLER & STEVE MITCHELL - BEN ODA - GLENN WHITMORE - LEN WEIN
WRITER ARTISTS LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR







TOURISTS SELDOM
COME HERE, TO
GOTHAM'S DECAYING
LOWER EAST SIDE--
THE AREA KNOWN
AS CRIME ALLEY!
YET EVEN IN THIS
GRIM NEIGHBORHOOD,
THERE CAN BE
LAUGHTER AND
SONG...

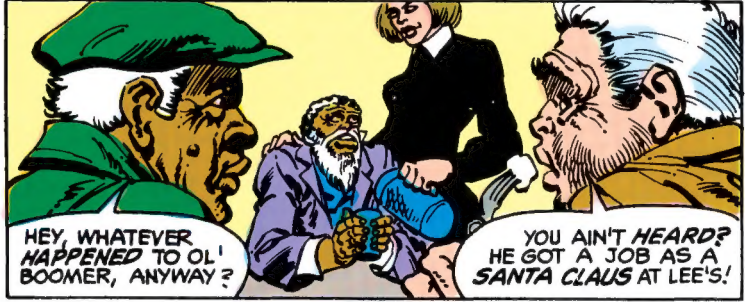
**GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY**



THANK YOU,
MA'AM!

HOPE
YOU
ENJOY
IT!

REAL TASTY!
ALMOST AS GOOD
AS OL' BOOMER'S
COOKIN'!



HEY, WHATEVER
HAPPENED TO OL'
BOOMER, ANYWAY?

YOU AIN'T HEARD?
HE GOT A JOB AS A
SANTA CLAUS AT LEE'S!

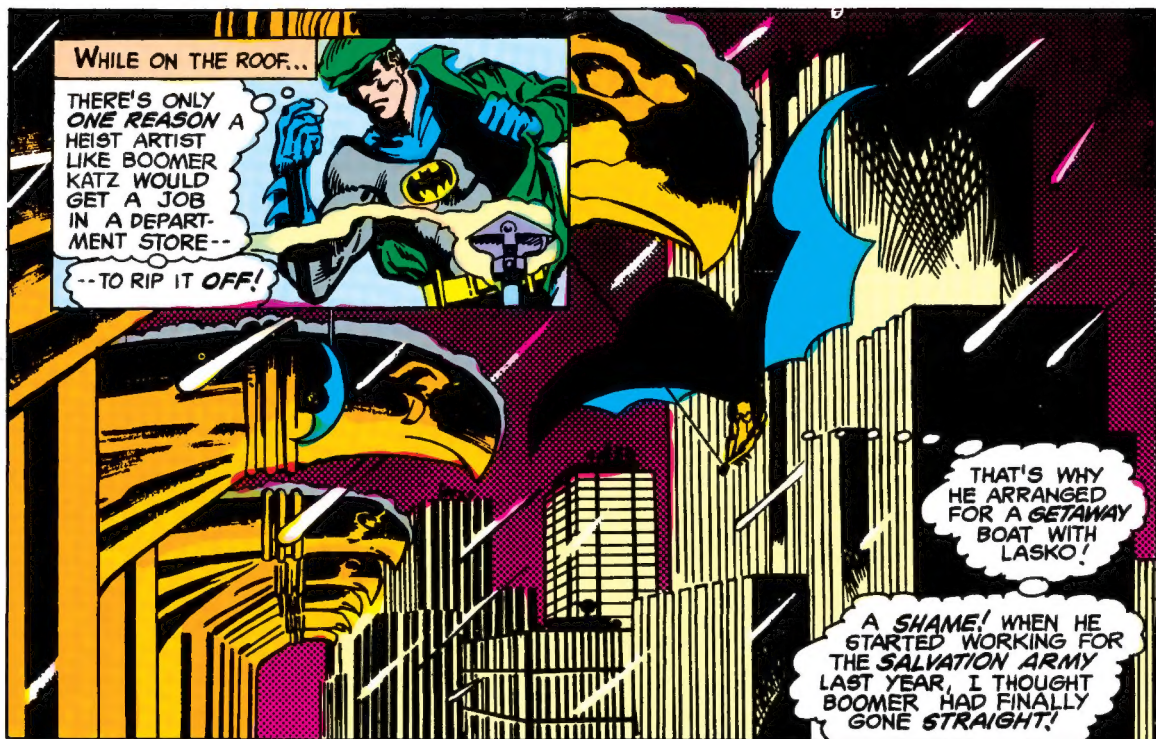


YEAH? WELL,
I GOT PLACES
TO BE!

MISSY, YOU
TAKE THIS AN'
USE IT AS YOU
SEE FIT!



A... A THOUSAND
DOLLARS!



WHILE ON THE ROOF...

THERE'S ONLY
ONE REASON A
HEIST ARTIST
LIKE BOOMER
KATZ WOULD
GET A JOB
IN A DEPART-
MENT STORE--

--TO RIP IT OFF!

THAT'S WHY
HE ARRANGED
FOR A GETAWAY
BOAT WITH
LASKO!

A SHAME! WHEN HE
STARTED WORKING FOR
THE SALVATION ARMY
LAST YEAR, I THOUGHT
BOOMER HAD FINALLY
GONE STRAIGHT!



AND AT THAT MOMENT...

...AND DON'T
FORGET THE
DOLL HOUSE,
SANTA!

I WON'T,
SWEETIE!

COME ON,
JUNIE!
THE STORE'S
CLOSING!



YOU'RE THE
BEST SANTA
WE'VE EVER
HAD, BOOMER!

WHY,
THANKS,
MISTER
JACKSON!

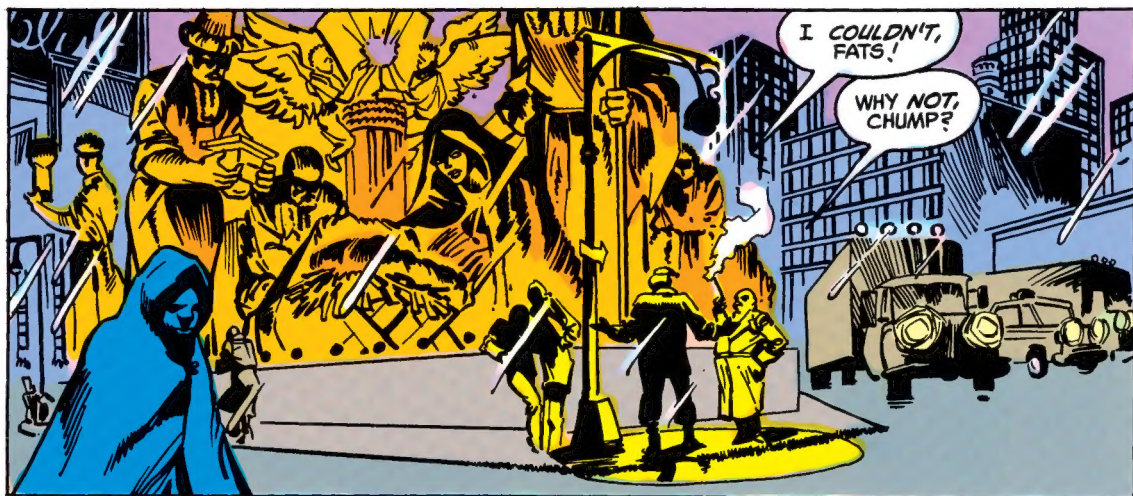


...THANKS A LOT...

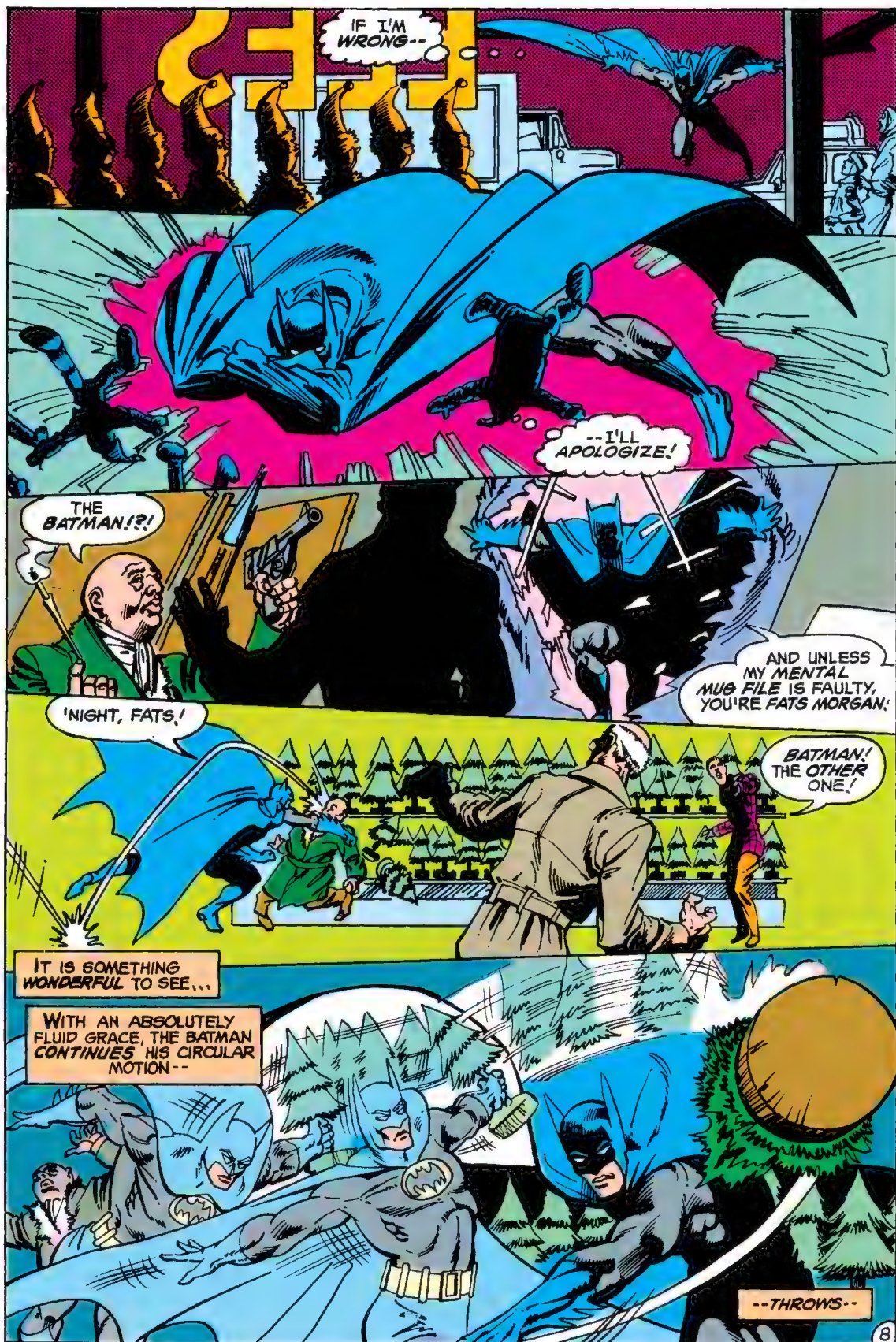


MOMENTS
LATER,
OUTSIDE...

DID YOU DO IT,
BOOMER? DID YOU
DISABLE THE STORE'S
ALARM SYSTEM?







IF I'M
WRONG--

--I'LL
APOLOGIZE!

THE
BATMAN!?!

'NIGHT, FATS!

AND UNLESS
MY MENTAL
MUG FILE IS FAULTY,
YOU'RE FATS MORGAN!

BATMAN!
THE OTHER
ONE!

IT IS SOMETHING
WONDERFUL TO SEE...

WITH AN ABSOLUTELY
FLUID GRACE, THE BATMAN
CONTINUES HIS CIRCULAR
MOTION--

--THROWS--

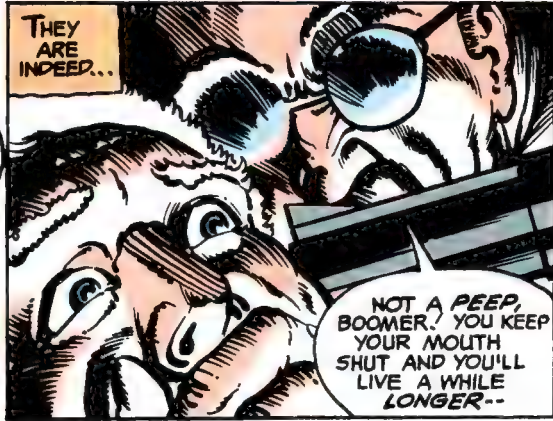


--AND SCORES!



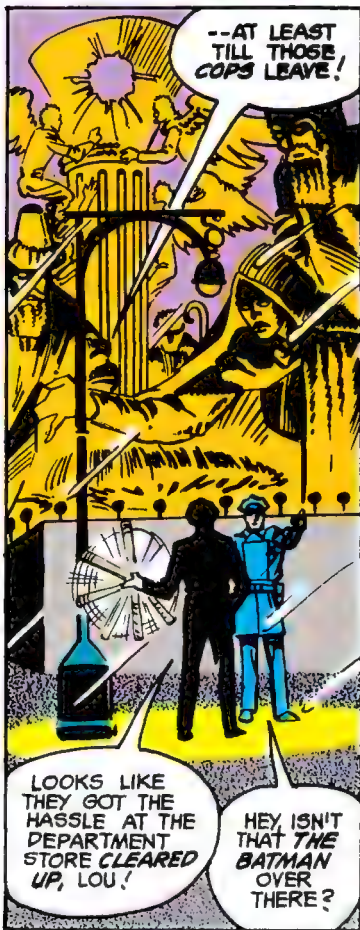
WHERE'S BOOMER KATZ?

HE...HE RAN OUT THE BACK! THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A DOUBLE-CROSS AND...AND THEY'RE TRYING TO MURDER HIM!



THEY ARE INDEED...

NOT A PEEP, BOOMER. YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND YOU'LL LIVE A WHILE LONGER--



--AT LEAST TILL THOSE COPS LEAVE!

LOOKS LIKE THEY GOT THE HASSLE AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE CLEARED UP, LOU!

HEY, ISN'T THAT THE BATMAN OVER THERE?



NO SIGN OF THEM!

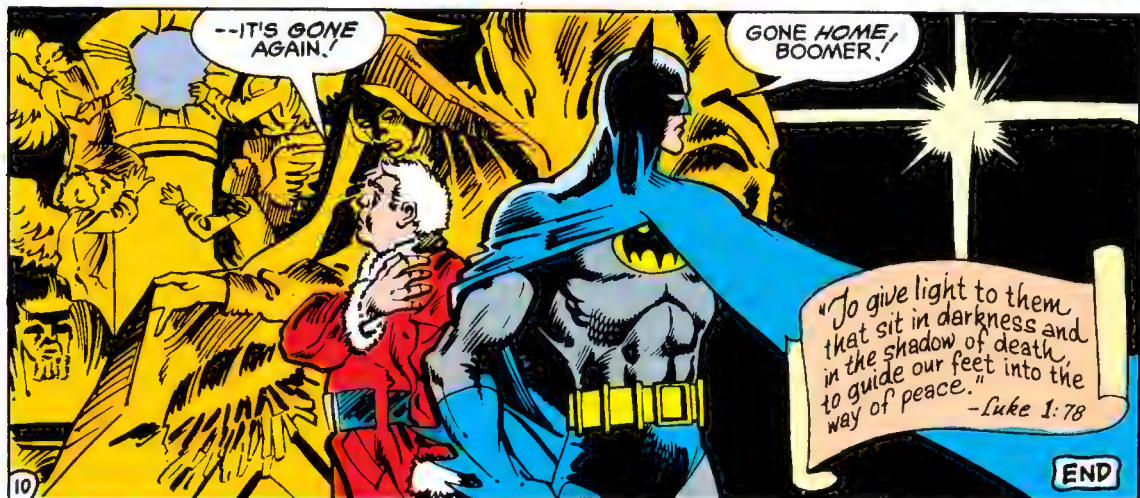
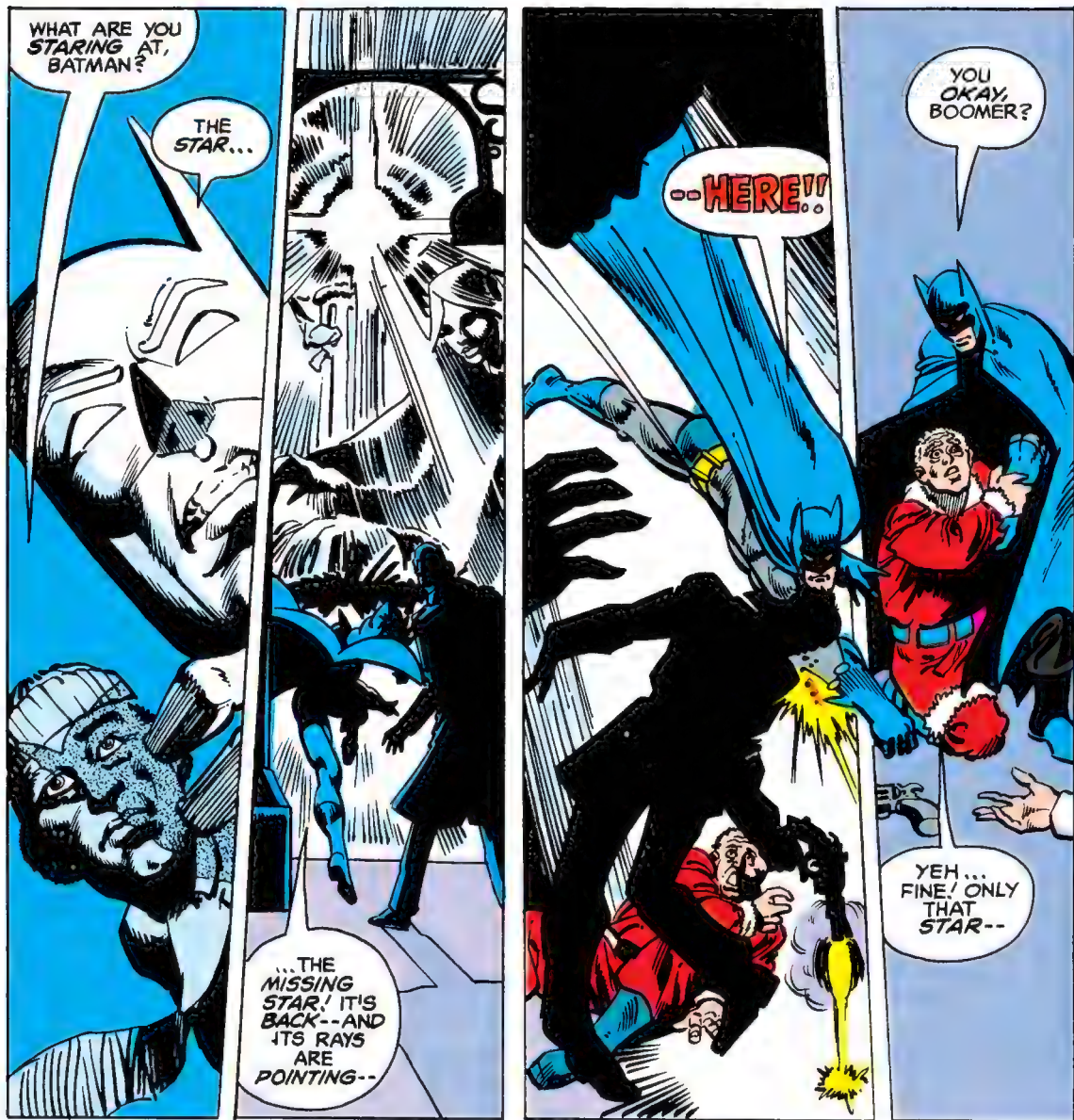
THE SNOWFALL WOULD'VE COVERED ANY TRACKS THEY LEFT!



EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL?

YES, IT IS, OFFICER!

WE'LL BE MOVING ON, THEN!



THIS MOST SPECIAL ADVENTURE OF THE

JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA

BEGINS NOT AS A CALL TO DANGER--BUT AS AN ERRAND OF MERCY-- AS THE WORLD'S FINEST DUO--
SUPERMAN AND BATMAN--RENDEZVOUS TO--

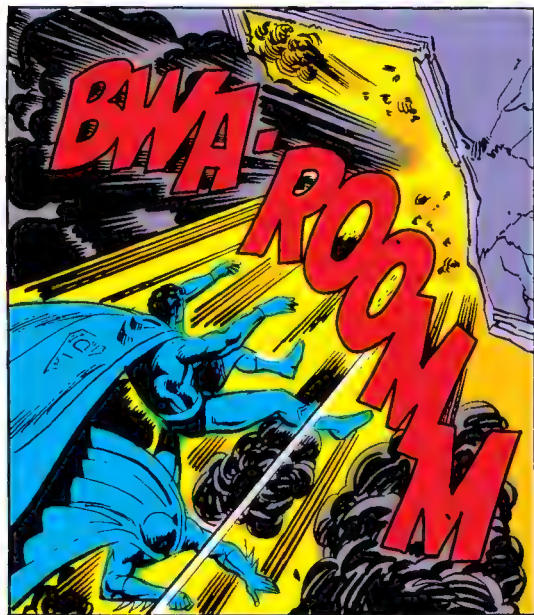
BUT WE'LL LET YOU
FIND OUT FOR
YOURSELF...

YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME
--TO THE SECOND!

I WOULDN'T
HAVE MISSED
THIS FOR
ANYTHING!

YOU READY YET,
SANTA? THOSE
ORPHANS WON'T
WAIT ALL EVENING,
YOU KNOW!

BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT,
SUPERMAN! I WANT THIS
OUTFIT TO LOOK EXACTLY
RIGHT--



WH-WHAT
HAPPENED?
MY HEAD
FEELS LIKE
SOMEONE'S
BEEN
DRIBBLING IT!

AN EXPLOSION--FROM
THE BEDROOM! MY
INVULNERABLE BODY
SHIELDED YOU FROM
MOST OF ITS EFFECTS!

AND SANTA--?
WHAT ABOUT
SANTA? HE
WAS IN THAT
ROOM!

OH, DEAR
LORD--
NO!



SORRY,
BUT THERE'S
NOTHING WE
CAN DO FOR
HIM!

SANTA
SIMPSON
IS DEAD!

AND IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER--I'D
SWEAR THE KEY
TO HIS KILLER IS
IN HIS HAND!

A KEY INDEED, BATMAN, BUT NO ORDINARY
KEY AS YOUR EXAMINATION WILL SHOW!

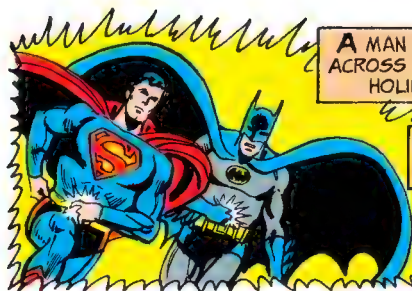
NO, THIS IS A CHALLENGE--AN INVITATION
THAT WILL SOON LEAD EARTH'S GREATEST
HEROES ALONG A TWISTING TERROR-FRAUGHT
TRAIL IN PURSUIT OF...

The MAN WHO MURDERED SANTA CLAUS!



TO the JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
A Christmas gift to you from me;
A very extra-special KEY!
Beneath the arch, it fits a LOCK
That, once it's turned, will save a block
Of cityfolk both Mayor and bum,
From being blown to kingdom Come!
So waste no time; don't hesitate!
You have till twelve to find the gate
This key will fit,
Though I admit
I think you'll be TOO LATE!
Signed,
An Admirer

A STARTLING SEASON'S GREETING CARD FROM LEN WEIN · WRITER
DICK DILLIN AND DICK GIORDANO · ARTISTS - GLENN WHITMORE · COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ · EDITOR (WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO GREEN LANTERN FAN
DUFFY VOHLAND.)



A MAN HAS *DIED*--THE GAUNTLET HAS BEEN *THROWN*--AND, THOUGH ACROSS THE WORLD THIS NIGHT THE AIR IS ALIVE WITH JOYOUS TIPINGS AND HOLIDAY CHEER, IT IS NOW ALIVE WITH SOMETHING *ELSE*--

--THE CRACKLING ELECTRONIC WHISPER OF TWO *JUSTICE LEAGUE* EMERGENCY SIGNAL DEVICES BEING PUT TO URGENT USE--

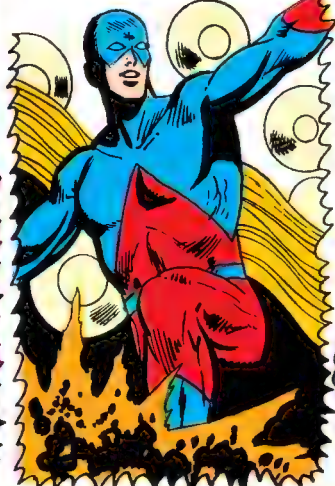
--A SUPERSONIC IMPULSE THAT CIRCLES THE GLOBE WITH A CLARION CALL TO *BATTLE*...

BUT 'THOUGH THE CALL GOES OUT TO *ALL*--*SOME* ARE UNABLE TO ANSWER...

BARRY (*FLASH*) ALLEN, FOR EXAMPLE--SPENDING THE HOLIDAYS WITH HIS WIFE, *IRIS*, AND HER PARENTS--1000 YEARS IN THE *FUTURE*!

... OR RAY (*ATOM*) PALMER, WHO, TOTALLY INVOLVED IN THE EXPLORATION OF A SUB-MICROSCOPIC UNIVERSE, HAS LOST TRACK OF THE YULETIDE SEASON ON HIS OWN WORLD...

... WHILE RALPH (*ELONGATED MAN*) DIBNY, SCUBA-DIVING WITH HIS WIFE *SUE* OFF THE CARIBBEAN COAST, WELL OUT OF REACH OF HIS *JLA* RECEIVER, SEEMINGLY HAS NOT FORGOTTEN THE SEASON AT ALL...



... NOR HAS AQUAMAN, KING OF ATLANTIS, AS HE PRESIDES OVER THAT UNDERSEA CITY'S SACRED FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS!

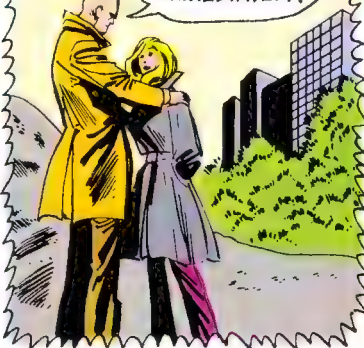
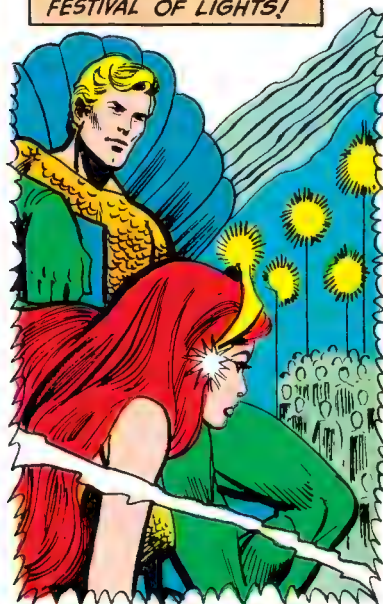
YET *OTHERS* WHO RECEIVE THE EMERGENCY SUMMONS ARE NOT SO DISTANTLY PREOCCUPIED...

JOHN (*RED TORNADO*) SMITH, ENJOYING A CASUAL STROLL THROUGH SNOW-DRAPED CENTRAL PARK WITH HIS LADY FRIEND, KATHY SUTTON...

FORGIVE ME, KATHY--BUT I'VE JUST REMEMBERED AN EMERGENCY THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY!

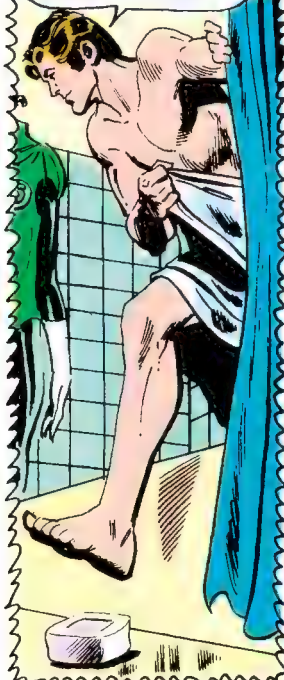
OLIVER (*GREEN ARROW*) QUEEN AND HIS LADY FRIEND, DINAH (*BLACK CANARY*) LANCE, INTERRUPTED IN THE MIDST OF A MORE PERSONAL CELEBRATION...

OF ALL THE LOUSY TIMES FOR THE *JLA* TO CALL!



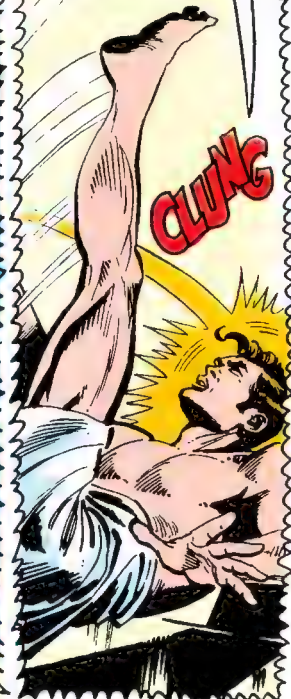
... AND, LASTLY, HAL (GREEN LANTERN) JORDAN, CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF PREPARING FOR A CHRISTMAS EVE DATE...

NEVER FAILS! STEP INTO THE TUB--AND SOMEBODY'S BOUND TO CALL--



--YOU--
OOOPPS!

CLUNG



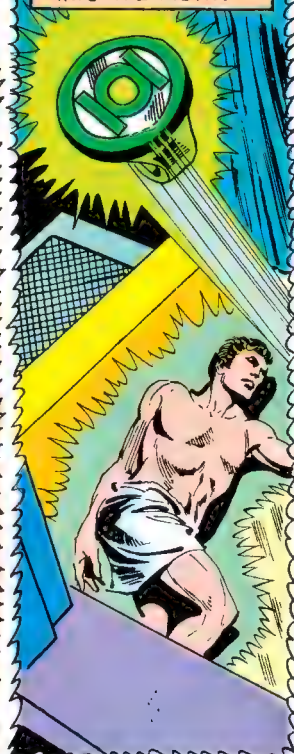
THE CRUCIAL JLA SIGNAL PERSISTS-- AND WHEN IT IS NOT ANSWERED, THERE COMES SILENT *MOVEMENT* IN THE ROOM--

--AS A SELF-MOTIVATED POWER RING BATHES ITS OWNER IN EMERALD LIGHT-- ASCERTAINS THAT THE DAMAGE DONE TO HIM IS MINOR--



--AND, FAILING TO ROUSE HIM, SURROUNDS HIM WITH A HEALING AURA--

-- THEN STREAKS OFF INTO THE NIGHT!



COME WITH US NOW TO A CERTAIN URBAN GHETTO... AND WATCH THE REST OF THIS SCENE RUN ITS COURSE...

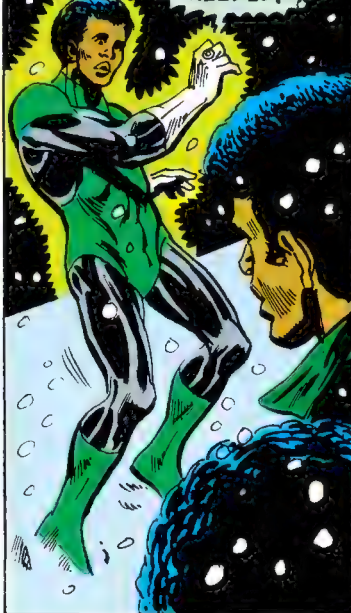
...SO THERE I'M STANDING WITH THESE BUILDING PLANS I'VE WORKED MONTHS ON CLENCHED IN MY HAND--

--AND THIS PIG-HEADED IDIOT SAYS TO ME...



HUH?!?

JOHN STEWART--
ALTERNATE
GREEN LANTERN
OF SPACE SECTOR
2814-- YOU ARE
NEEDED!



WAITAMINNI!
WHAT IF I
DON'T WANT
TO--

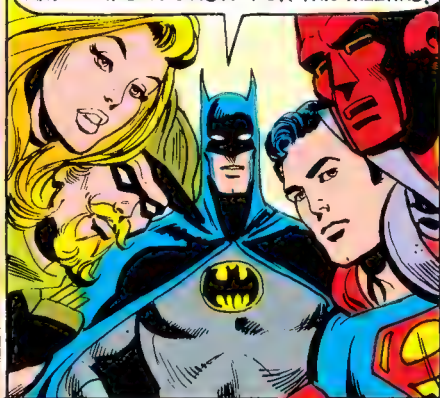
--GO?



THUS HAS THE SUMMONS BEEN SENT-- AND THE CLAN GATHERED --BUT AS WE CAN SEE BY TURNING OUR ATTENTION TO A SATELLITE WHIRLING 22,300 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH--

--IT IS A DEPRESSINGLY SMALL CLAN, INDEED!

MIGHT AS WELL GET STARTED! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY MEMBERS WHO ARE GOING TO SHOW FOR THIS MEETING!



CLOSE, BROTHER-- BUT NO CIGAR!

YOU'D BETTER ADD GREEN LANTERN TO THE ROSTER OF THOSE PRESENT!

WHO--?

YOU--!

YOU MAY BE WEARING THE UNIFORM, FRIEND-- BUT YOU'RE NOT GREEN LANTERN!

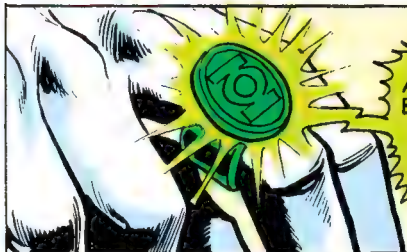
TELL US HOW YOU GOT IN HERE OR--

EASY, BROTHER--JUST KEEP COOL A SECOND-- AND THIS LITTLE RING WILL TELL YOU ANYTHING YOU WANNA KNOW!

HAL JORDAN TOLD ME ABOUT THIS DUDE, SUPES! --LET HIM TALK!



AND AS THE POWER RING EXPLAINS TO THE JLA ALL THAT WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN...



...I'VE BEEN PROGRAMMED BY MY MASTER... WERE HE EVER TOO INCAPACITATED TO ANSWER YOUR SUMMONS...

...TO SECURE JOHN STEWART AND DELIVER HIM TO YOUR PRESENCE IN MY MASTER'S STEAD.

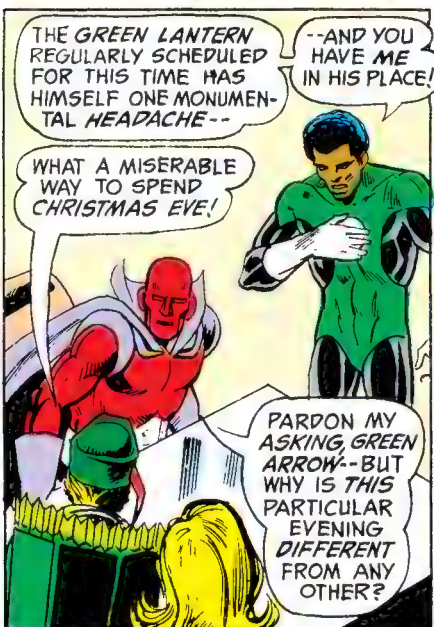
THERE'S THE WHOLE STORY, GANG--

THE GREEN LANTERN REGULARLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS TIME HAS HIMSELF ONE MONUMENTAL HEADACHE--

--AND YOU HAVE ME IN HIS PLACE!

WHAT A MISERABLE WAY TO SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE!

PARDON MY ASKING GREEN ARROW--BUT WHY IS THIS PARTICULAR EVENING DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER?



WHAT--? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'! CHRISTMAS EVE IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE... BECAUSE...

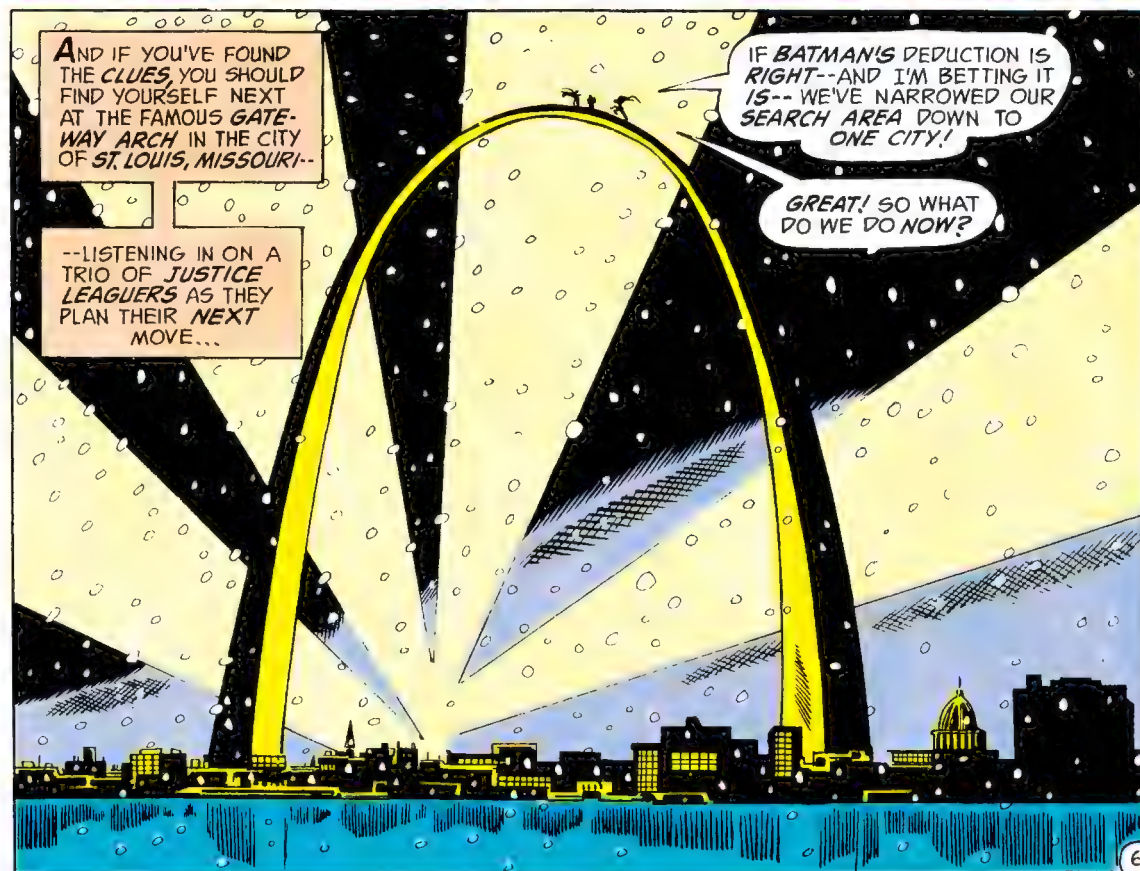
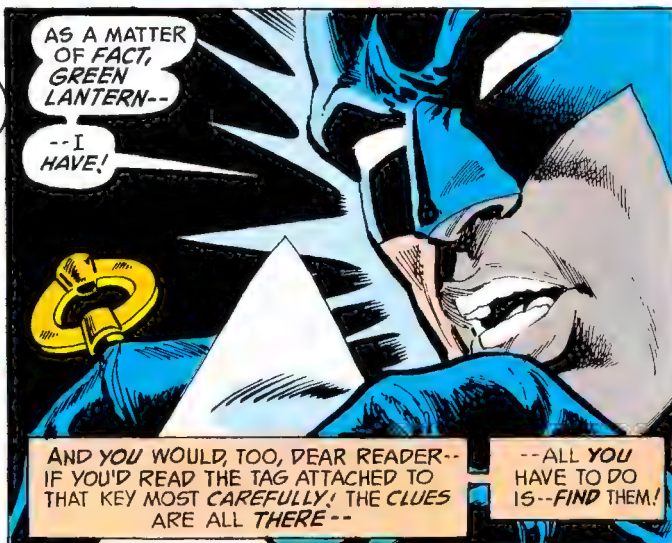
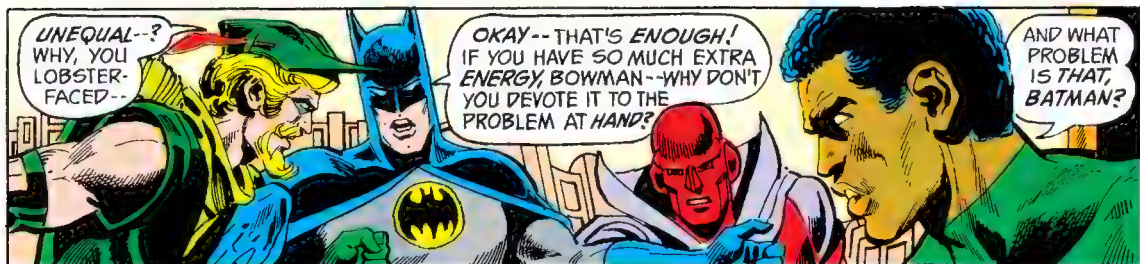
AHHH-- HOW DO YA EXPLAIN SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO... A DOGGONE MACHINE?

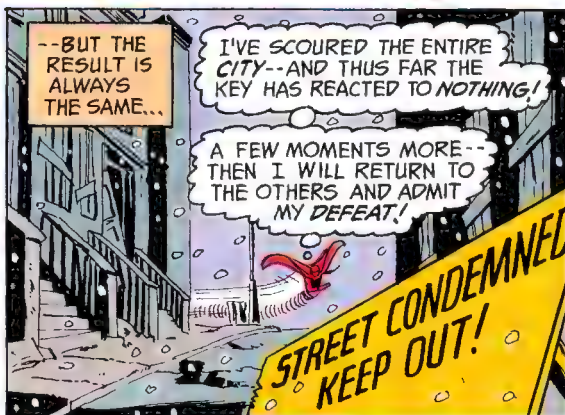
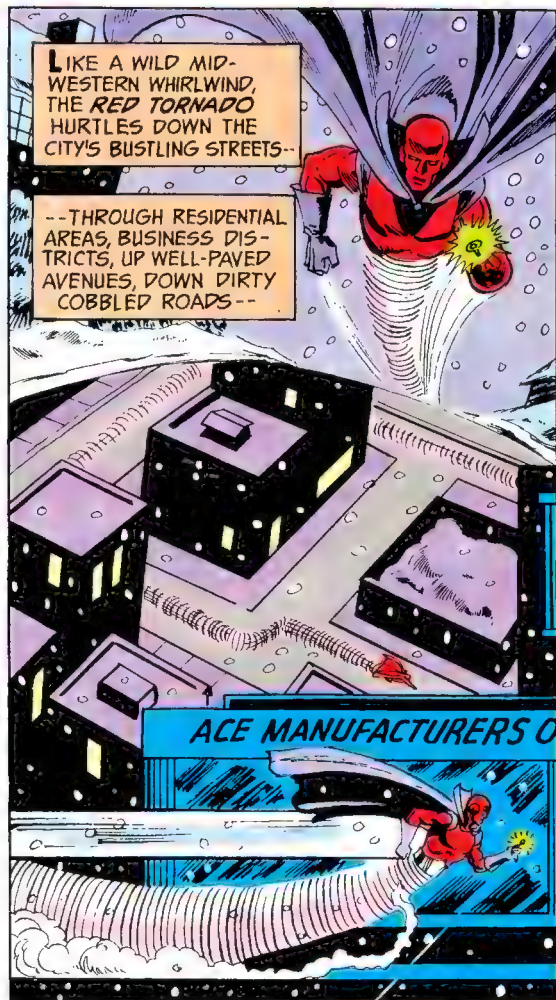


MY ARTIFICIAL ORIGINS HAVE IN NO WAY IMPAIRED MY CAPACITY FOR LEARNING, ARCHER!

IF YOU ARE UNEQUAL TO THE TASK OF ANSWERING MY SIMPLE QUERY, MERELY SAY SO--AND I WILL UNDERSTAND!









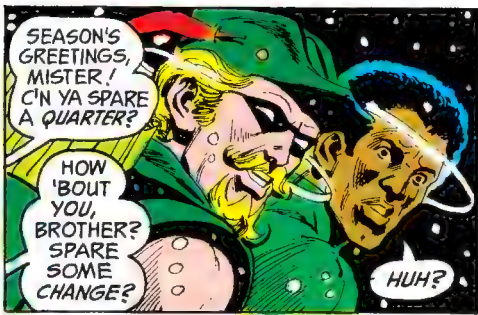
AND BRIEF MOMENTS LATER...

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, TORNADO-- I'D SWEAR YOU WERE SMILING UNDER THAT HELMET!

PERHAPS, SUPERMAN--FOR I'VE FOUND THE LOCK WE SEEK--

--AND I SUGGEST WE MAKE USE OF IT--QUICKLY!!

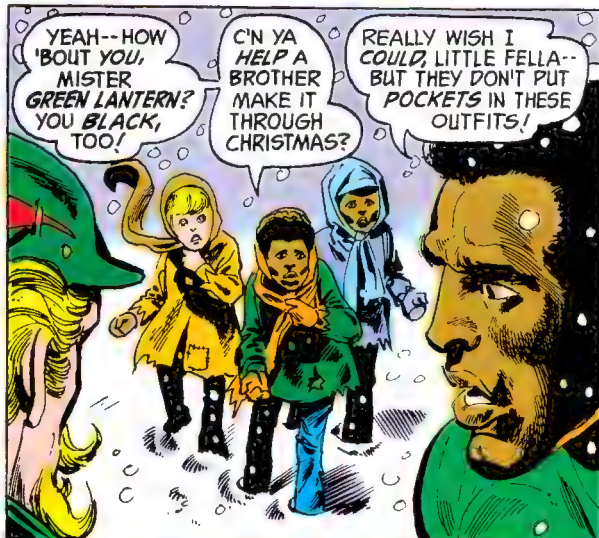
BUT AS THE JUSTICE LEAGUERS MOVE TO FOLLOW THE TORNADO'S SUGGESTION...



SEASON'S GREETINGS, MISTER! C'N YA SPARE A QUARTER?

HOW 'BOUT YOU, BROTHER? SPARE SOME CHANGE?

HUH?



YEAH--HOW 'BOUT YOU, MISTER GREEN LANTERN? YOU BLACK, TOO!

C'N YA HELP A BROTHER MAKE IT THROUGH CHRISTMAS?

REALLY WISH I COULD, LITTLE FELLA-- BUT THEY DON'T PUT POCKETS IN THESE OUTFITS!



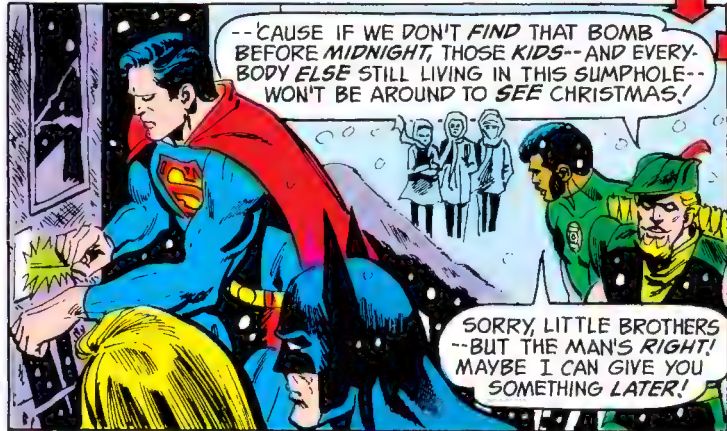
LOOK, WHY DON'T I JUST USE THE POWER RING TO WHIP UP SOME... EH?

UH, UH, STEWART-- I DON'T THINK THE GUARDIANS ALLOW THAT!

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP THESE KIDS, YOU'LL WISH 'EM A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HEAD INTO THAT OLD HOUSE WITH THE REST OF US--

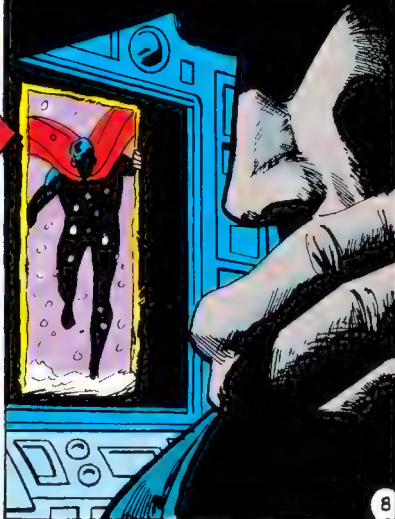
WITH AN ALMOST SILENT CLICK, THE KEY TURNS IN THE LOCK-- AND, CAUTIOUSLY, SIX COLORFULLY-GARBED FIGURES ENTER THE CRUMBLING TENEMENT--

--THEIR PROGRESS OBSERVED BY TWO DARKLING EYES THAT PEER COLDLY, EMOTIONLESSLY, THROUGH THE GLOOM OF A HIDDEN CONTROL ROOM...



--'CAUSE IF WE DON'T FIND THAT BOMB BEFORE MIDNIGHT, THOSE KIDS-- AND EVERYBODY ELSE STILL LIVING IN THIS SUMPHOLE-- WON'T BE AROUND TO SEE CHRISTMAS!

SORRY, LITTLE BROTHERS --BUT THE MAN'S RIGHT! MAYBE I CAN GIVE YOU SOMETHING LATER!





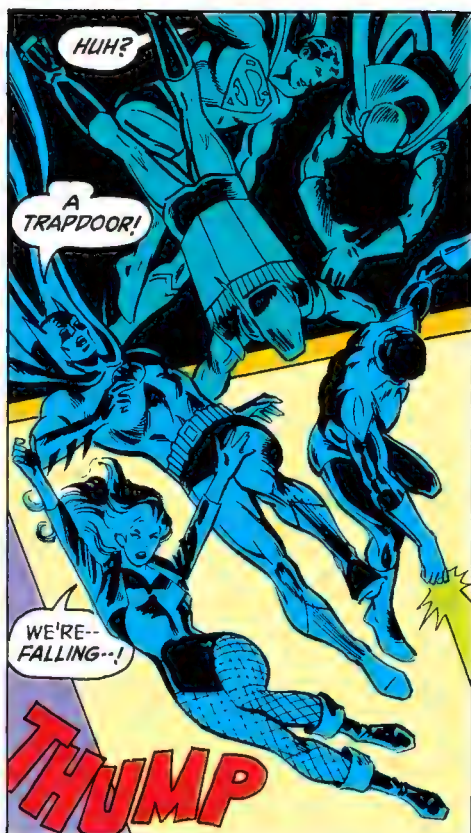
MAN, THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE THE UNDER-SIDE OF A ROCK!

WELCOME TO THE INNER CITY, LADY AND GENTS! IF YOU THINK THIS JOINT IS BAD-- YOU SHOULD SEE SOME OF THE FILTH-HOLES I'VE HAD TO LIVE IN!



LET'S DISCUSS RELATIVE REAL ESTATE MERITS AFTERWARDS, PEOPLE--

-- AFTER WE'VE LOCATED THE BOMB--



HUH?

A TRAPDOOR!

WE'RE-- FALLING--!

THUMP



AND WHEN THE SIX STARTLED HEROES STAGGER TO THEIR FEET...

ANY BONES BROKEN? EVERY-ONE ALL RIGHT?

SO FAR, I GUESS --BUT WE AIN'T GONNA STAY THAT WAY LONG!

LOOK UP THERE!

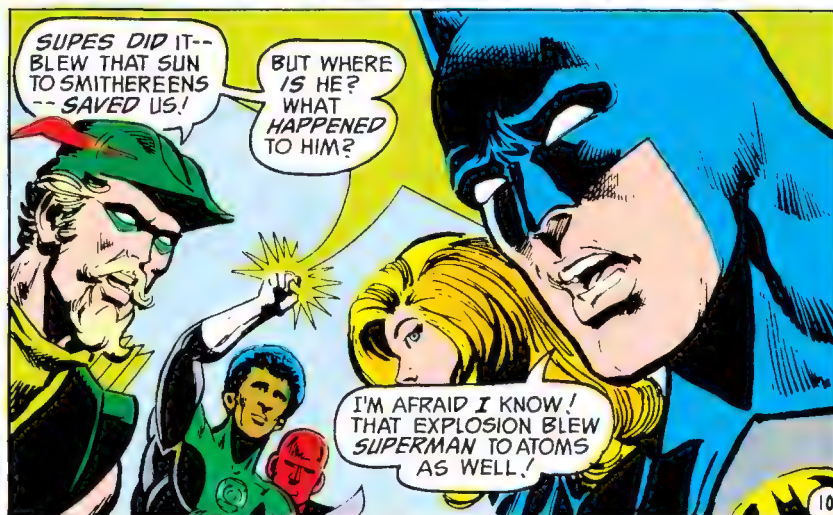
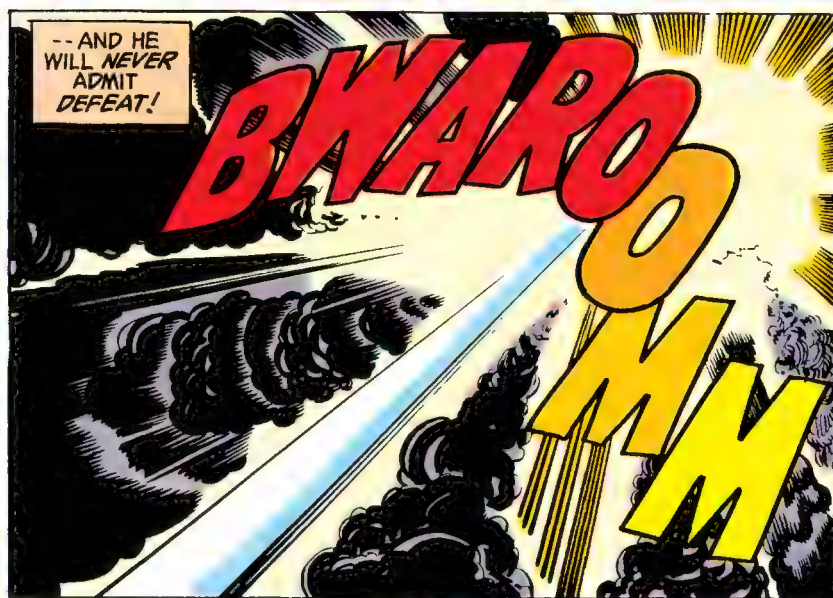
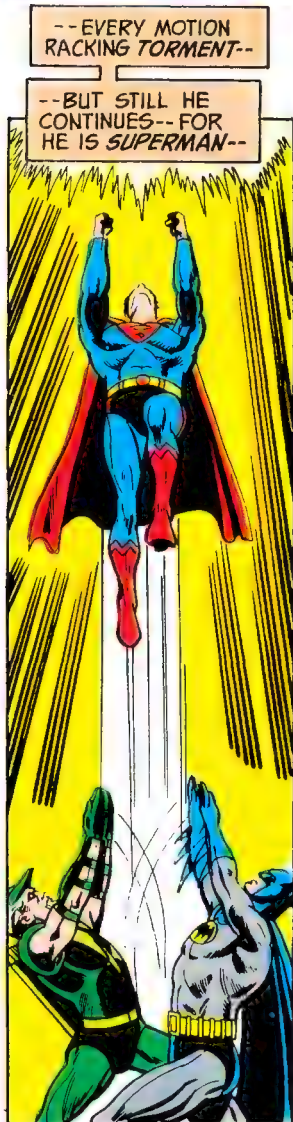


LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S TRYING TO DROP COALS IN OUR CHRISTMAS STOCKING --**HOT** COALS!

MORE THAN MERE COAL, ARCHER! THAT THING DESCENDING TOWARDS US IS A MINIATURE SUN!

A SUN WITH A YELLOW CORE, I BET-- 'CAUSE THE POWER RING HAS NO EFFECT ON IT! *

*DUE TO A NECESSARY IMPURITY IN ITS MAKEUP, THE POWER RING HAS NO EFFECT ON THE COLOR YELLOW! --EDITOR.



BUT BEFORE THE HEART-BROKEN HEROES ARE LOST TO THEIR DEPRESSION...

OH, OLIVER-- I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GONE!

LOOK-- SOMETHING OPENING THE WALL--

--A PORTAL OF SOME SORT!

THEN LET'S MAKE USE OF IT! SUPERMAN MAY BE GONE--

--BUT OUR MISSION STILL REMAINS!

INSTANTS AFTER, AS THE FIFTH AND FINAL JUSTICE LEAGUER STEPS ACROSS THE PORTAL...

THE DOORWAY-- IT'S SEALING SHUT BEHIND US!

AND WITH GOOD REASON, BLACK CANARY!

TAKE A GLANCE AT WHAT'S AHEAD OF US!

A CIRCUS CALLIOPE-- PLAYING ITS OWN MUSIC-- AND SPEWING OUT-- GAK-- GAS!

IT'S-- GASP!-- CHOKING ME-- AND THIS BLASTED RING-- GAK-- IS USELESS AGAINST IT!

THE ROOM IS SEALED SHUT-- NO WAY FOR MY SUPER-WHIRLING TO DISSIPATE THE POISONOUS FUMES!

MY COMPANIONS ARE-- DOOMED!

CHOKE-- TORNADO'S RIGHT! WE'VE ALL HAD IT UNLESS...

IT'S A LONG SHOT! I'M NOT EVEN SURE I STILL HAVE THE POWER-- BUT IF I CAN JUST HIT THE RIGHT NOTE TO COUNTER THE CALLIOPE'S SONG--

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY MONTHS, THE LOVELY BLACK CANARY THROWS BACK HER HEAD-- AND SINGS--

I... I CAN BREATHE AGAIN...

--A SILENT ULTRASONIC MELODY THAT FORCES THE CHOKING FUMES AWAY FROM THE GASPING JLAERS...

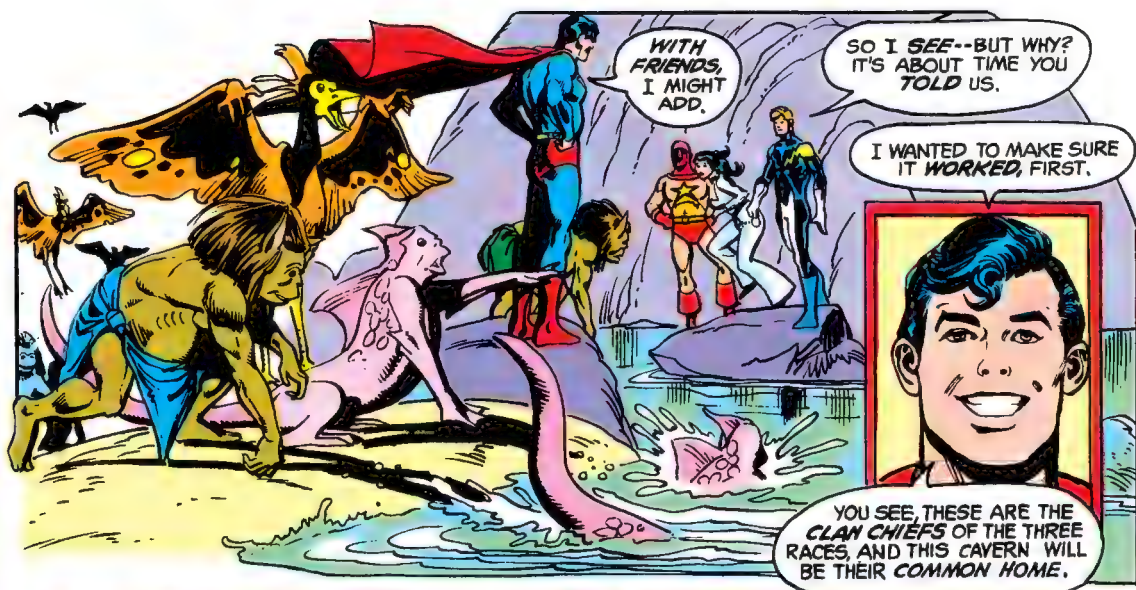
LOOK! ANOTHER DOORWAY OPENING IN THE WALL--!

THEN LET'S GET OUTA HERE!

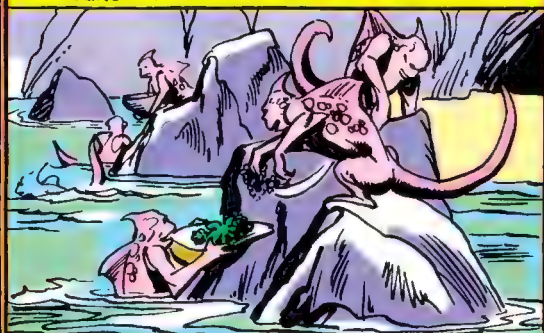
C'MON, DINAH-- WE'VE GOTTA MOVE FAST!

I CAN'T, OLLIE! MY ULTRASONIC SONG IS THE ONLY THING HOLDING BACK THE GAS!

I HAVE TO STAY--



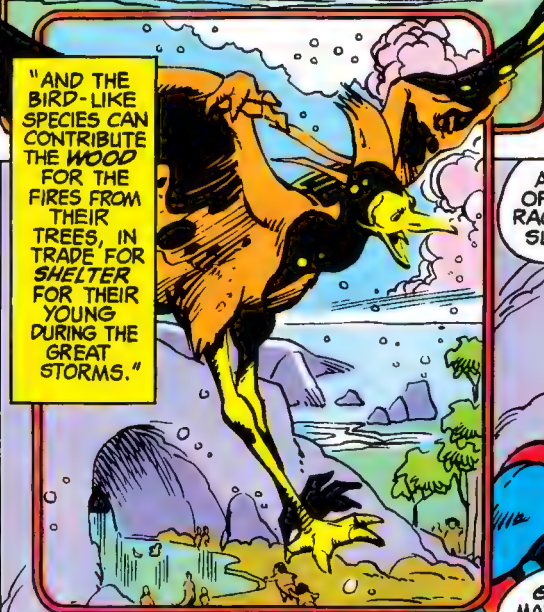
"BECAUSE WE SHELTERED IT AND GAVE IT ACCESS TO WARM UNDERGROUND SPRINGS, THE WATER-DWELLERS CAN GROW THEIR CROPS HERE IN SAFETY..."



"...WHICH THEY'LL SHARE WITH THE LAND-DWELLERS, IN TRADE FOR THE LAND-DWELLERS SETTING FIRES AROUND THE POOL'S EDGE TO ADD TO THE WARMTH.



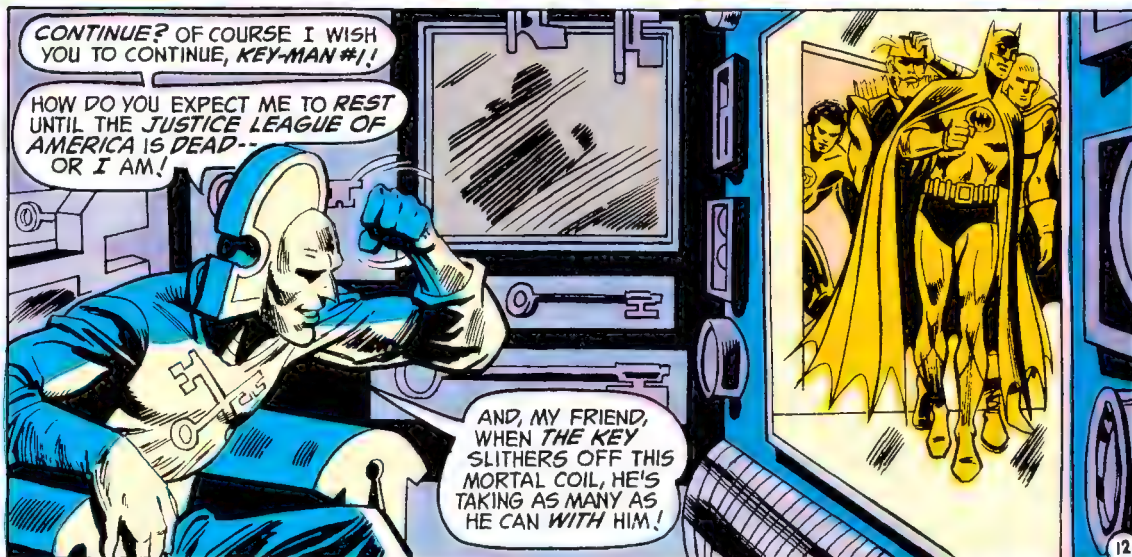
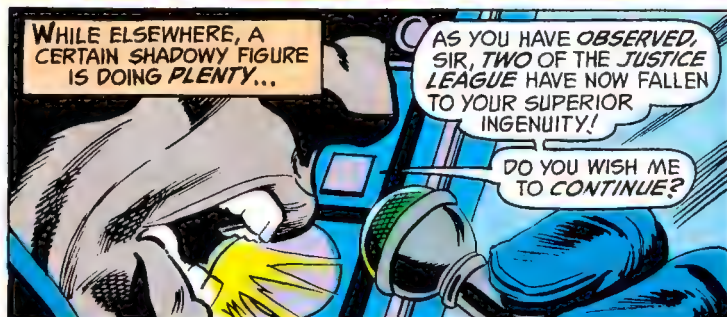
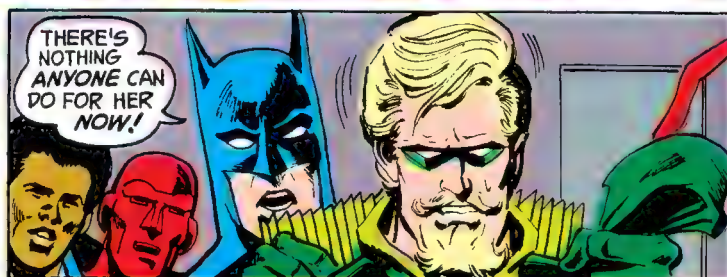
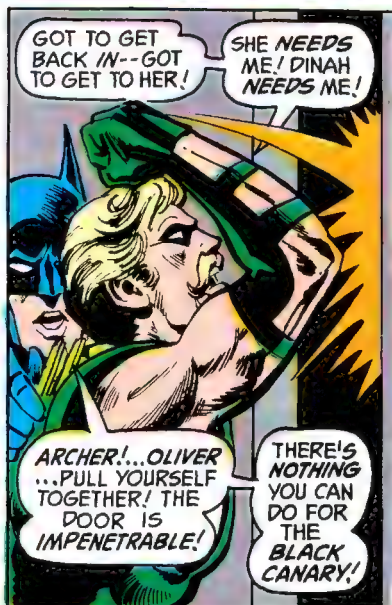
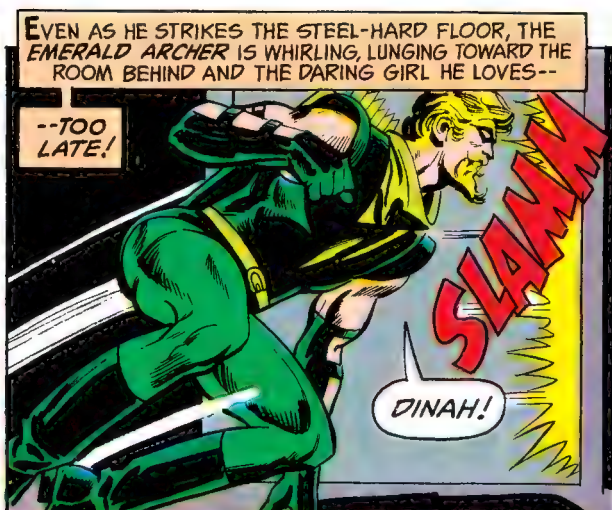
"AND THE BIRD-LIKE SPECIES CAN CONTRIBUTE THE WOOD FOR THE FIRES FROM THEIR TREES, IN TRADE FOR SHELTER FOR THEIR YOUNG DURING THE GREAT STORMS."

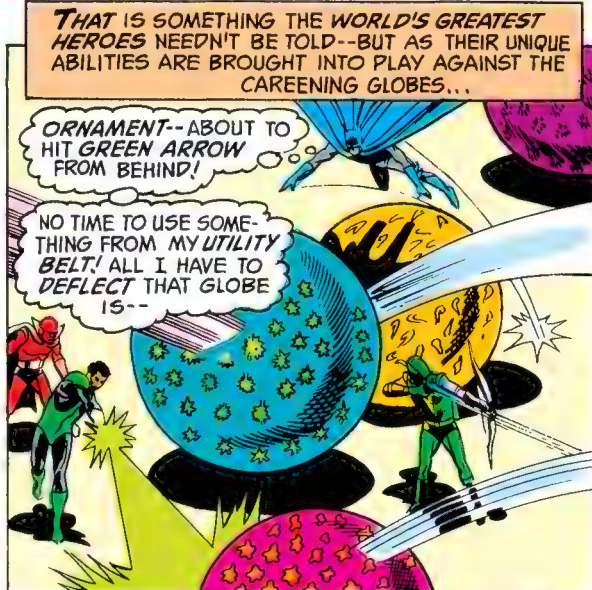
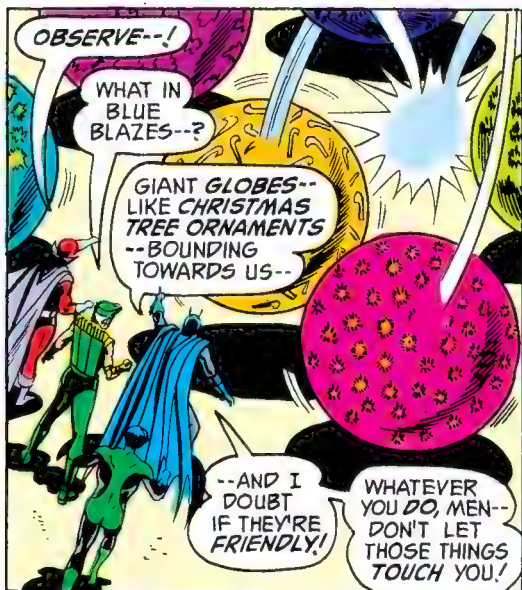
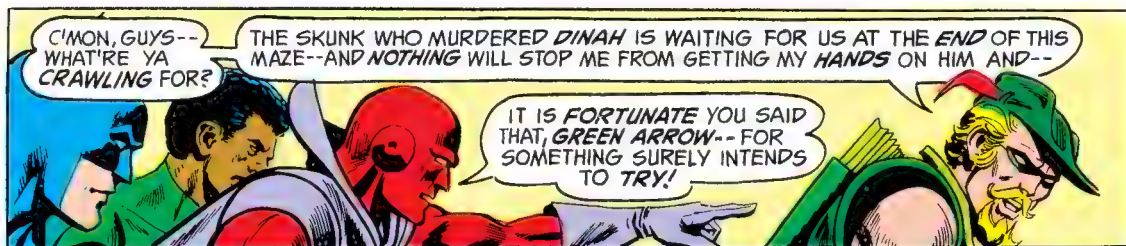


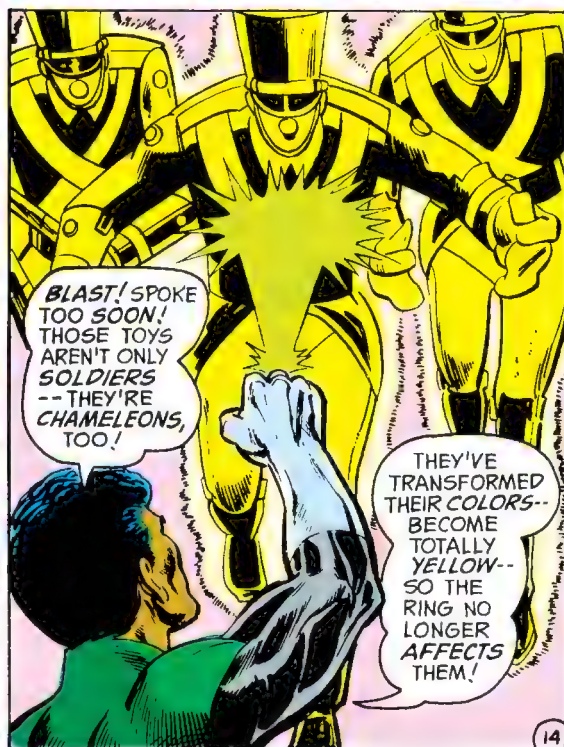
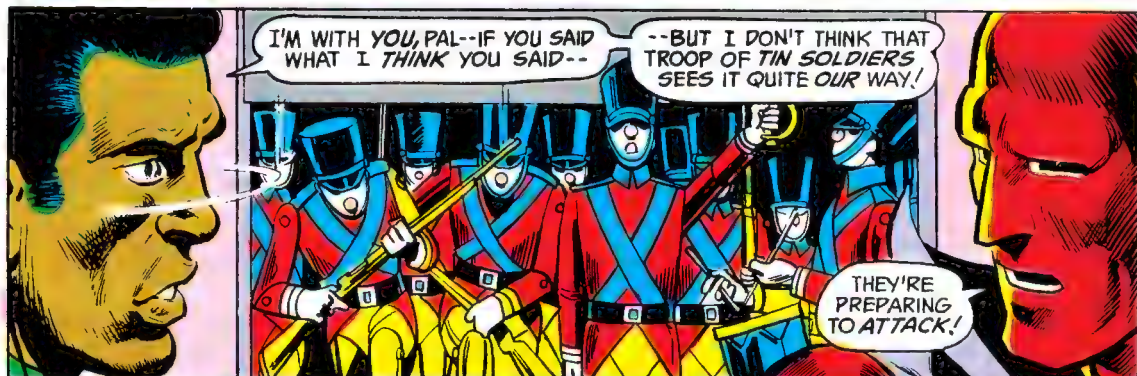
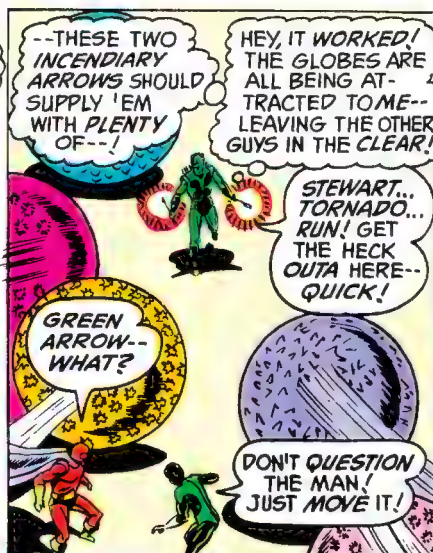
ALONE, NONE OF THE THREE RACES COULD SURVIVE...

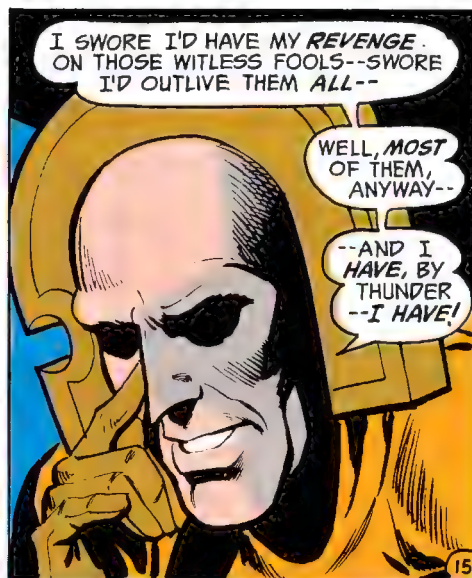
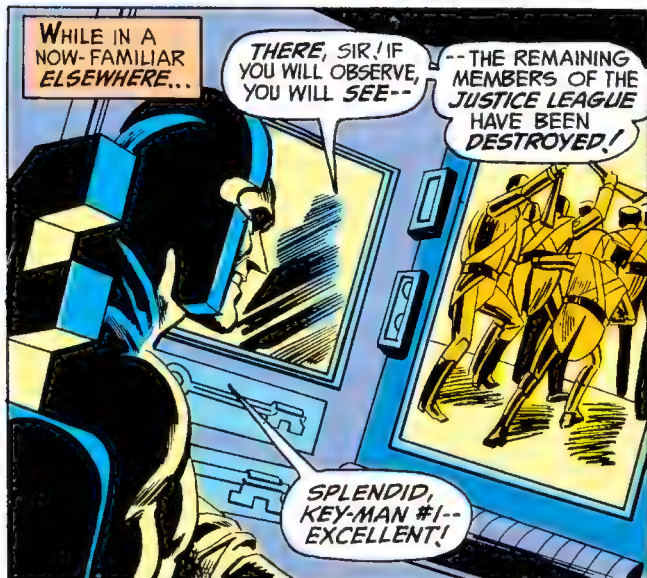
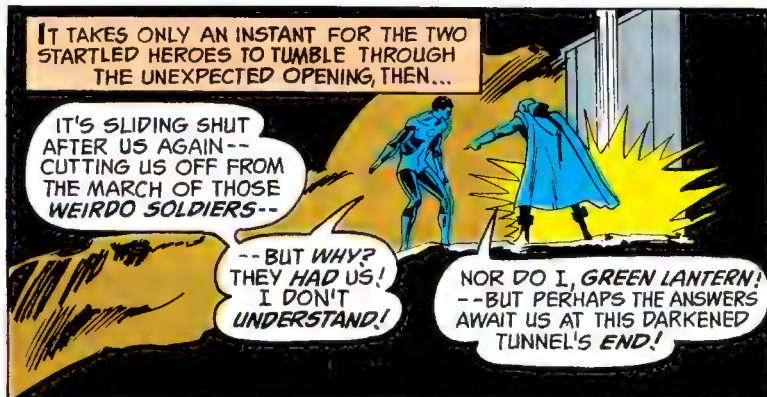
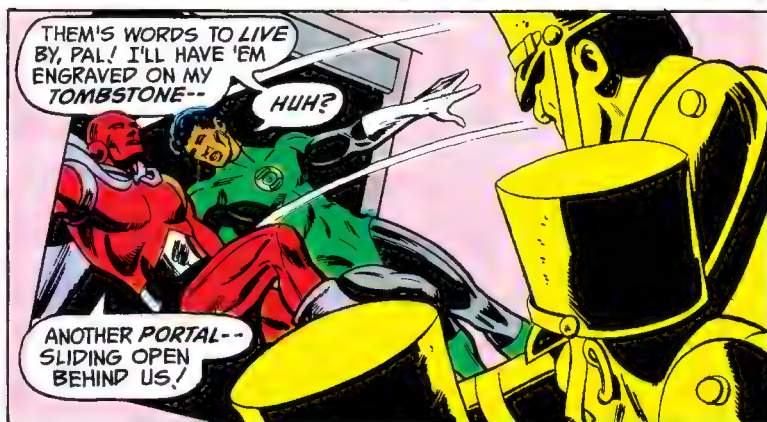
... BUT TOGETHER THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANG ON UNTIL THE UNITED PLANETS CAN ARRANGE A SAFE EVACUATION.













"THE ARROGANT DOLTS --THEY REALLY THOUGHT THEY'D TAKEN CARE OF ME FOR GOOD WHEN LAST WE MET..."

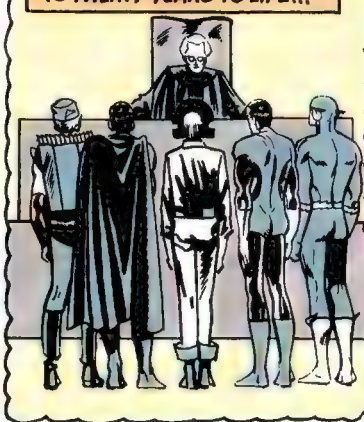
I'LL FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE NO MATTER WHERE YOU PUT ME, SUPERMAN!

REALLY? EVEN FROM MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE--WHERE YOU'LL BE KEPT IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION?



"THEY MIGHT HAVE INDEED BEEN RIP OF ME THEN--HAD NOT SUPERMAN'S SUGGESTION BEEN RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY A TOO-LENIENT JUDGE..."

"INSTEAD I WAS SENTENCED TO TWENTY YEARS-TO-LIFE..."



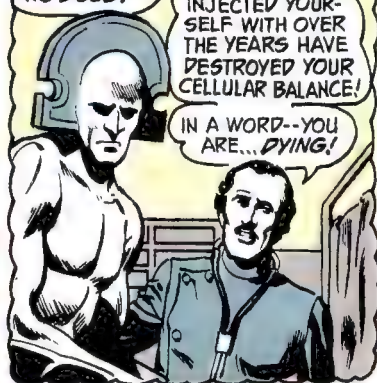
"... BUT AS IT TURNED OUT, LIFE WAS THE SHORTER OF THE TWO EXTREMES..."

"FOR A ROUTINE EXAMINATION BY A PRISON DOCTOR REVEALED..."

I'M SORRY... BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT--

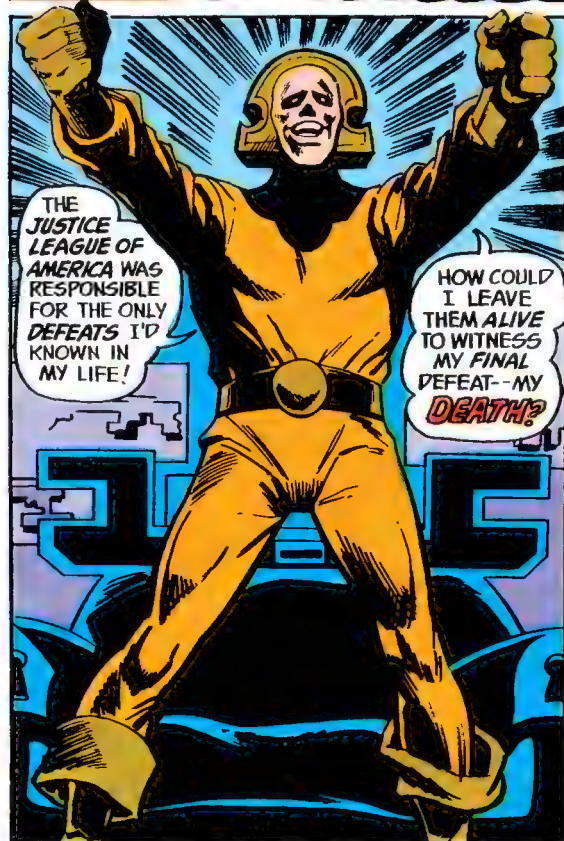
--THE VARIOUS PSYCHO-CHEMICALS YOU'VE INJECTED YOURSELF WITH OVER THE YEARS HAVE DESTROYED YOUR CELLULAR BALANCE!

IN A WORD--YOU ARE... DYING!



"I WOULDN'T LAST OUT THE YEAR, THE DOCTOR SAID. I MIGHT MAKE IT THROUGH CHRISTMAS-- BUT I'D NEVER SEE ANOTHER NEW YEAR..."

"UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I WAS PAROLED FROM PRISON-- TO CAREFULLY PLOT MY VENGEANCE..."

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ONLY DEFEATS I'D KNOWN IN MY LIFE!

HOW COULD I LEAVE THEM ALIVE TO WITNESS MY FINAL DEFEAT-- MY **DEATH**?



THE MURDER OF THAT DIME-STORE SANTA CLAUS--THE KEY-CLUE THAT LED THE JUSTICE LEAGUE INTO MY SPECIALLY-PREPARED DEATH- MAZE--

--ALL THE RESULT OF MONTHS OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION --ALL PART OF MY UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT TO MYSELF-- MY LAST GIFT--

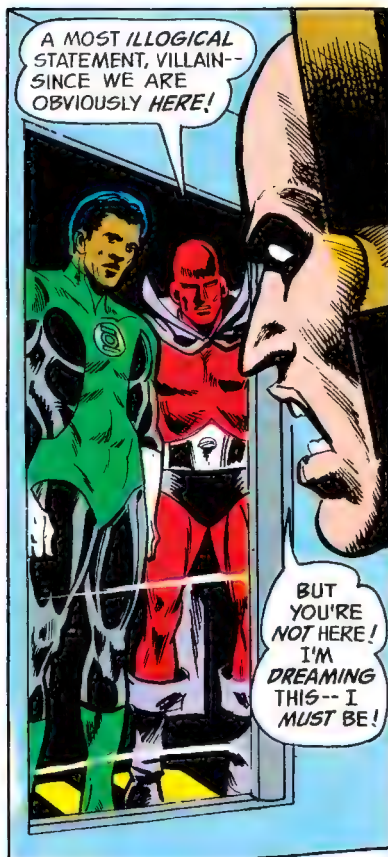
--THE DESTRUCTION OF THE--



FORGET IT, BROTHER! THE TAG ON THAT GIFT SHOULD SAY YOU CAN'T OPEN IT TILL CHRISTMAS-- AND IT'S STILL A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MIDNIGHT!

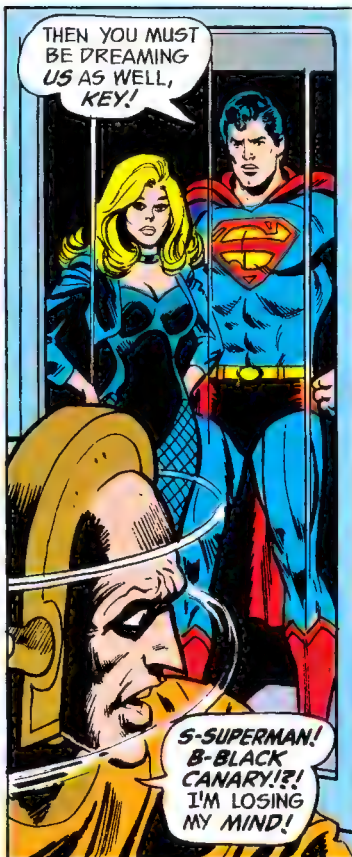
WHO--?

NO--IT CAN'T BE YOU! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



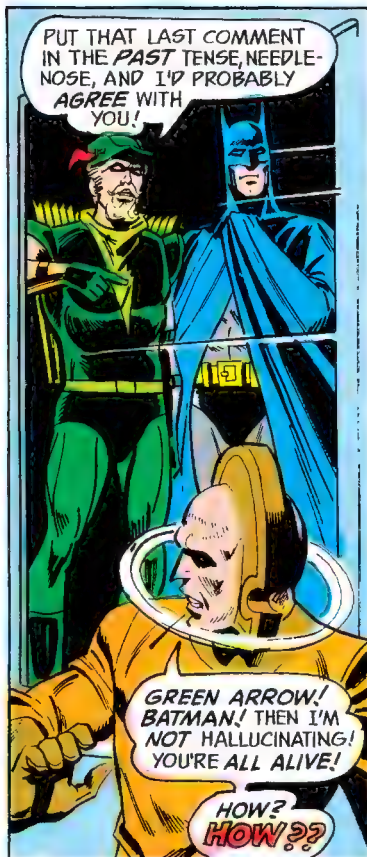
A MOST ILLOGICAL STATEMENT, VILLAIN-- SINCE WE ARE OBVIOUSLY HERE!

BUT YOU'RE NOT HERE! I'M DREAMING THIS-- I MUST BE!



THEN YOU MUST BE DREAMING US AS WELL, KEY!

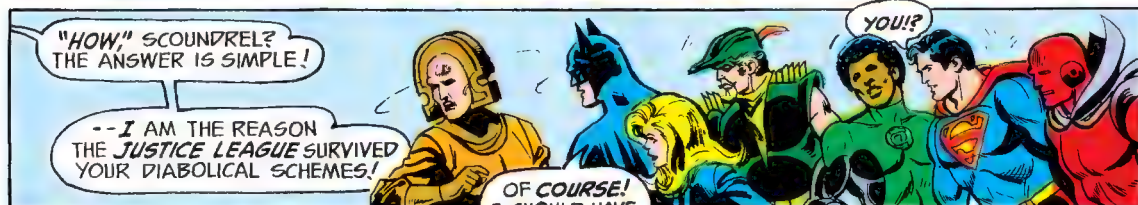
S-SUPERMAN! B-BLACK CANARY!?! I'M LOSING MY MIND!



PUT THAT LAST COMMENT IN THE PAST TENSE, NEEDLE-NOSE, AND I'D PROBABLY AGREE WITH YOU!

GREEN ARROW! BATMAN! THEN I'M NOT HALLUCINATING! YOU'RE ALL ALIVE!

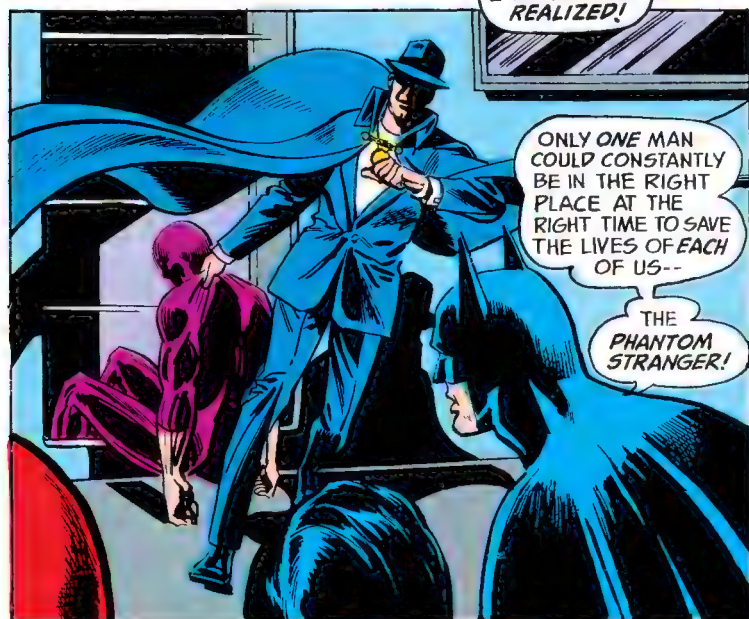
HOW? HOW??



"HOW," SCOUNDREL? THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE!

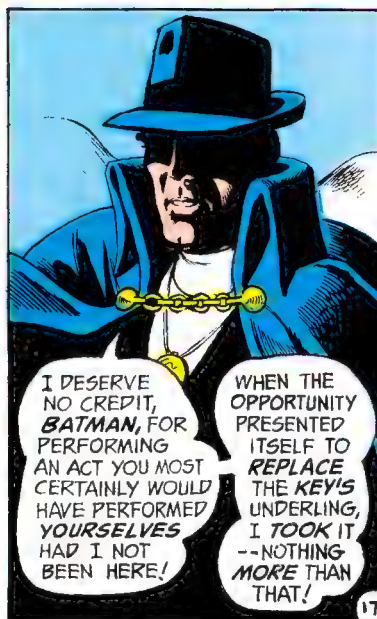
--I AM THE REASON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SURVIVED YOUR DIABOLICAL SCHEMES!

OF COURSE! I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED!



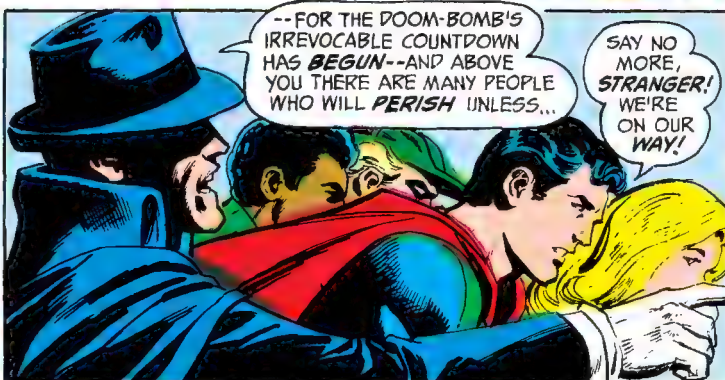
ONLY ONE MAN COULD CONSTANTLY BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME TO SAVE THE LIVES OF EACH OF US--

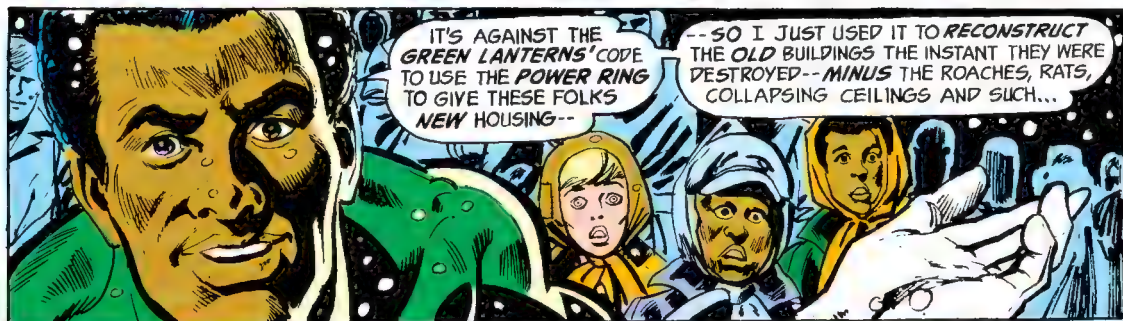
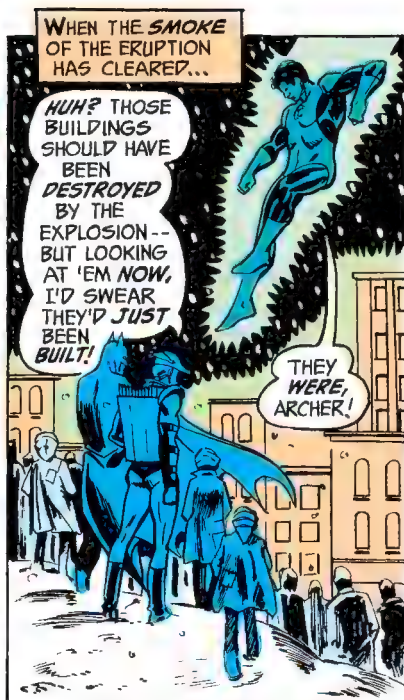
THE PHANTOM STRANGER!



I DESERVE NO CREDIT, BATMAN, FOR PERFORMING AN ACT YOU MOST CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE PERFORMED YOURSELVES HAD I NOT BEEN HERE!

WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF TO REPLACE THE KEY'S UNDERLING, I TOOK IT --NOTHING MORE THAN THAT!





EPILOGUE

THEN, IN A CERTAIN ORBITING SATELLITE, SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE JUSTICE LEAGUERS HAVE SAID FAREWELL TO THEIR SUBSTITUTE GREEN LANTERN...

YOU SUMMONED ME, FELLOW MEMBERS--FOR A REASON OF SOME IMPORTANCE, I HOPE!

MY FRIEND, MISS SUTTON, SEEMS TO BE GROWING A TRIFLE ANNOYED WITH MY SUDDEN DEPARTURES!

WE THINK IT'S IMPORTANT, RED TORNADO!

--WE WANTED TO GIVE YOU-- THIS!

I DO NOT COMPREHEND! WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE SUCH AN HONOR?

IT'S NOT AN HONOR--IT'S A GIFT--

--A CHRISTMAS GIFT--FROM ALL OF US!

~HUMBUG~

WHY--A NEW UNIFORM OF SOME KIND!

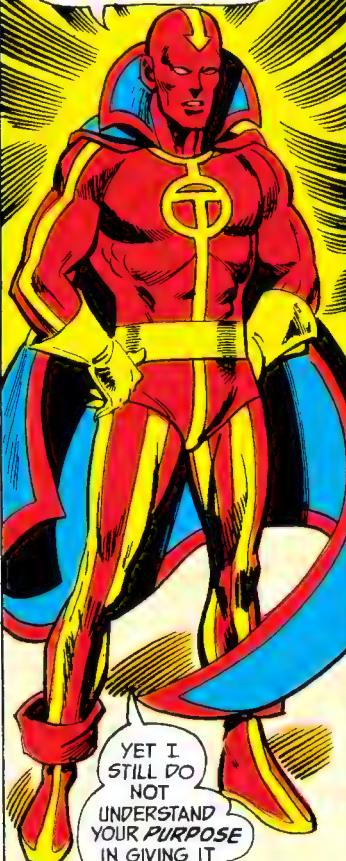
A NEW RED TORNADO UNIFORM--TO BE PRECISE, CHUM! BLACK CANARY DESIGNED IT AND SEWED IT HERSELF!

I WAS JUST TOO TIRED OF OF THAT DRAB, GRIM OUTFIT YOU'VE BEEN WEARING!

GO AHEAD, TORNADO-- TRY IT ON!

THERE IS A WHIRLING BLUR OF MOTION IN THE CHAMBER--AND THEN...

THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS! THIS NEW UNIFORM IS MOST... APPEALING!



YET I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR PURPOSE IN GIVING IT TO ME?

BUT WE NEED NO PURPOSE, RED TORNADO! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND-- IT'S CHRISTMAS!

THE SATISFACTION-- THE REWARD--IS IN THE SIMPLE ACT OF GIVING!

GIVING? DO YOU MEAN AS IN THE WAY EACH OF YOU SOUGHT TO GIVE YOUR LIVES EARLIER THIS EVE THAT THE REST OF US MIGHT LIVE?

NOT EXACTLY, TORNADO-- IT'S MORE LIKE...

NO, DINAH--MAYBE RED TORNADO IS RIGHT!

AFTER ALL, THEY SAY THE MAN WHOSE BIRTH WE CELEBRATE TODAY GAVE HIS LIFE THAT ALL THE GENERATIONS TO FOLLOW HIM MIGHT LIVE IN PEACE!

AHHHH...JUST WISH HIM A MERRY CHRISTMAS...AND BE DONE WITH IT!

AM I HEARING RIGHT?

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, OLIVER?

I SAID "MERRY CHRISTMAS"-- A SIMPLE "MERRY CHRISTMAS"!

YOU WANNA MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?

UH-UH, OLIVER-- YOU'VE ALREADY MADE ENOUGH OUT OF IT FOR ALL OF US!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, SWEETHEART!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!

AND THAT IS A SENTIMENT WE'D ALL LIKE TO SHARE! SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US HERE TO MEN OF GOOD WILL EVERYWHERE!

THE END

TEEN TITANS

OH, GHOSTS OF
CHRISTMAS PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE...
WHAT DO YOU WANT
OF POOR ME?

WE WANT YOU TO
UNDO THE WRONGS
YOU'VE DONE, YOU OLD
SKINFLINT, OR WE'LL
HAUNT YOU OUT OF
YOUR GROTTY MIND!

ART BY:
NICK CARDY

COLOR BY:
HELEN VESIK

SCRIPT BY:
BOB HANEY

FANATIC ONES: CHARLES DICKENS HAS BEEN LONG DEAD--BUT HIS GREAT BOOKS, HIS FABULOUS CHARACTERS, LIVE ON! IN FACT, HIS STORIES ARE SO ALIVE TODAY THAT THEY KEEP ON HAPPENING! SO JOIN YOU HERE THAT FANTASTIC FOURSOME, YE TEEN TITANS, FOR A HOLIDAY "HAPPENING" INSPIRED BY THE IMMORTAL PAGES OF THE GREATEST YULETIDE TALE OF THEM ALL! YES, DECK YOURSELVES WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY, AND PARK UNDER THE MISTLETOE MOST MARVELOUS, AS WE BEGIN...

The TT's Swingin' Christmas Carol!

THE SAME SILENT SNOW FALLS SOFTLY
DOWN ON A FANTASTIC, BIZARRE
SCENE--ON THE CITY'S OUTSKIRTS...

MR. SCROUNGE,
COULDN'T
WE TURN
UP THE
H-HEAT
A LI-LITT-
LITTLE?
I CAN
HARDLY
WORK!

BAH! HUMBUG,
RATCHET! THIS
TEMPERATURE
IS STIMULATING--
KEEPS YOUR
MIND CLEAR
AND ON YOUR
WORK, MY
GOOD
FELLOW!



YES, SIR, MR. SCROUNGE...I'M TRYING
TO FINISH UP SO I CAN HAVE
CHRISTMAS DAY OFF!

YOU WANT CHRISTMAS DAY
OFF? HUMBUG!... YOU'LL
ONLY WASTE YOUR TIME--
AND THE GOOD MONEY
I PAY YOU!

BUT...BUT SIR...EVERY-
ONE CELEBRATES
CHRISTMAS!

I DON'T! IT'S ALL...HUMBUG!
BUT I SUPPOSE YOU CAN
HAVE IT OFF, RATCHET,
IF YOU KEEP AT THOSE
BOOKS!



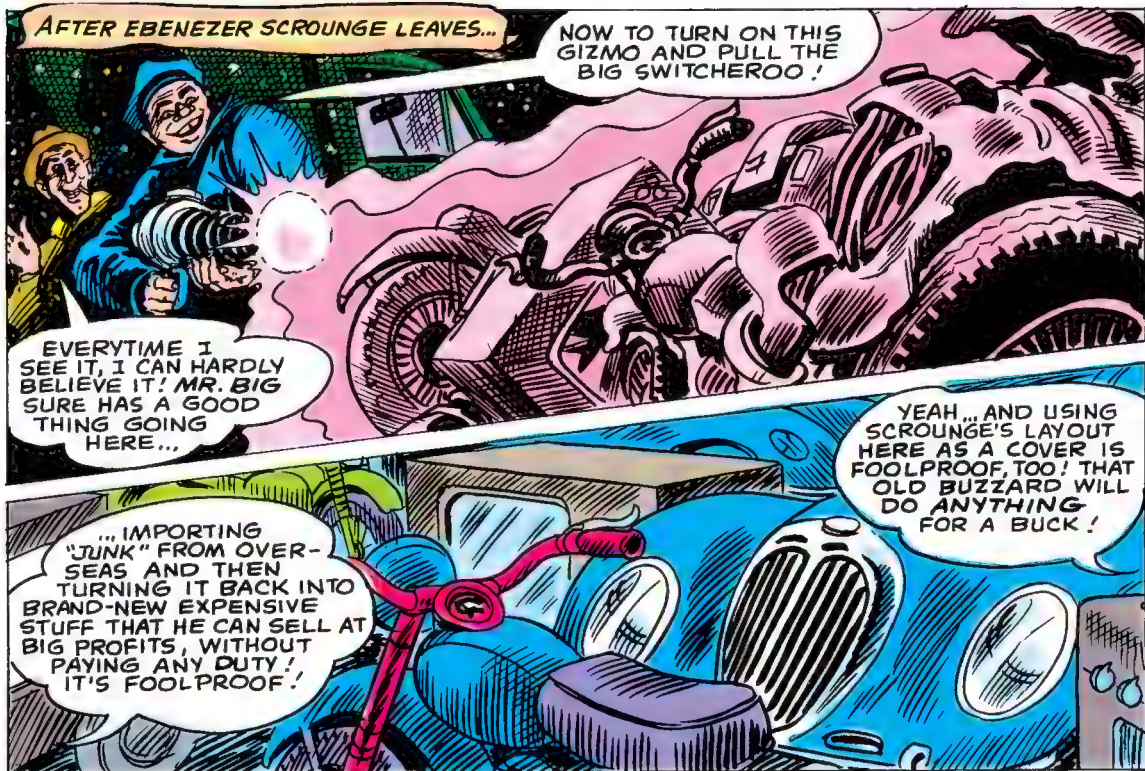
THE OLD MISER--
HE'S SO STINGY,
HE EVEN SAVES
PULL-TOP TABS!

BUT I NEED THIS
JOB...MY KID, TINY
TOM, NEEDS THAT
AUTOMATIC WHEEL-
CHAIR FOR CHRISTMAS,
SO HE CAN GET
AROUND AND
HAVE A LITTLE
FUN!

WITH WHAT
SCROUNGE
PAYS ME,
I CAN JUST
AFFORD IT,
BY WORKING
OVERTIME!







AFTER EBENEZER SCROUNGE LEAVES...

NOW TO TURN ON THIS GIZMO AND PULL THE BIG SWITCHEROO!

EVERYTINE I SEE IT, I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! MR. BIG SURE HAS A GOOD THING GOING HERE...

YEAH... AND USING SCROUNGE'S LAYOUT HERE AS A COVER IS FOOLPROOF, TOO! THAT OLD BUZZARD WILL DO ANYTHING FOR A BUCK!

... IMPORTING "JUNK" FROM OVERSEAS AND THEN TURNING IT BACK INTO BRAND-NEW EXPENSIVE STUFF THAT HE CAN SELL AT BIG PROFITS, WITHOUT PAYING ANY DUTY! IT'S FOOLPROOF!



WOW! THEY'RE SMUGGLERS-- AND DAD'S BOSS, MR. SCROUNGE, IS HELPING THEM!

I GOTTA TELL DAD-- NOW!

BUT WHEN TINY TOM DOES TELL BOB RATCHET OF WHAT HE'S SEEN AT THE JUNKYARD...

SCROUNGE MIXED UP IN A CROOKED RACKET? THAT EXPLAINS WHY HE LET ME GO EARLY!

YOU'D BETTER GO TO THE POLICE, DAD!

WE'LL... UH... I THINK, TOMMY, IT'S BETTER IF I TALK TO MR. SCROUNGE FIRST-- GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN!



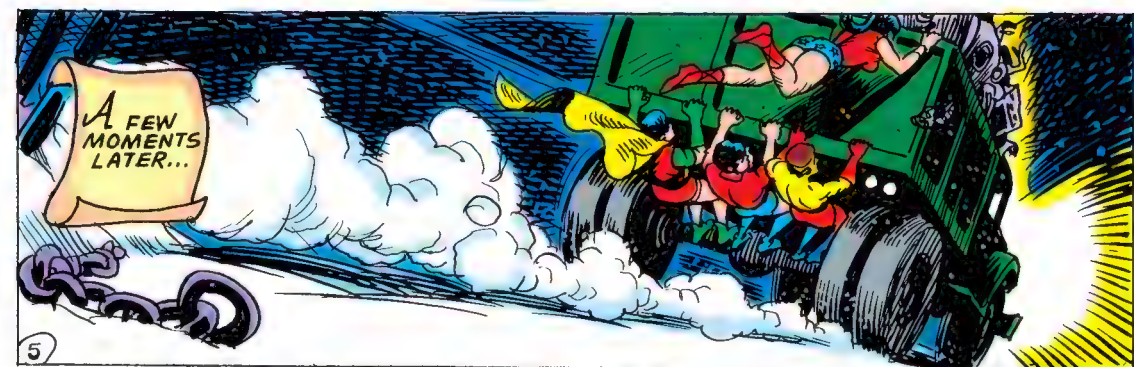
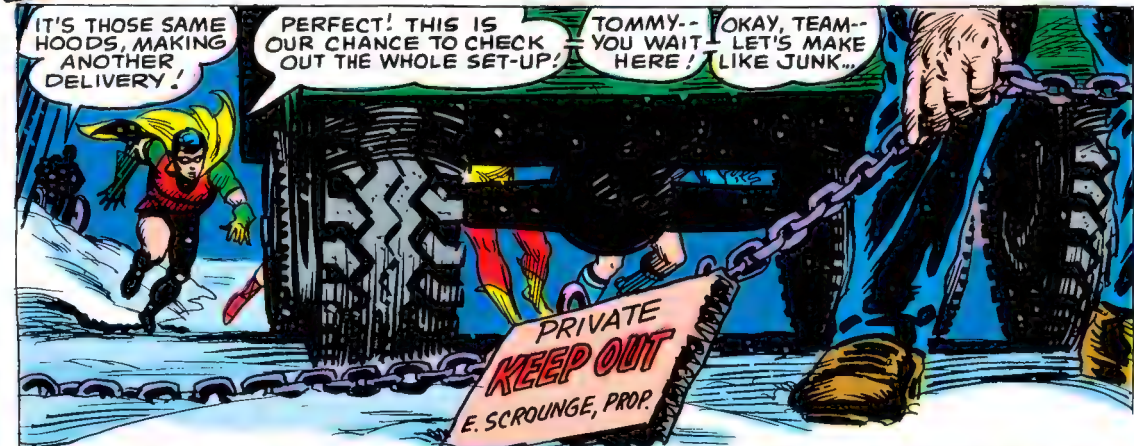
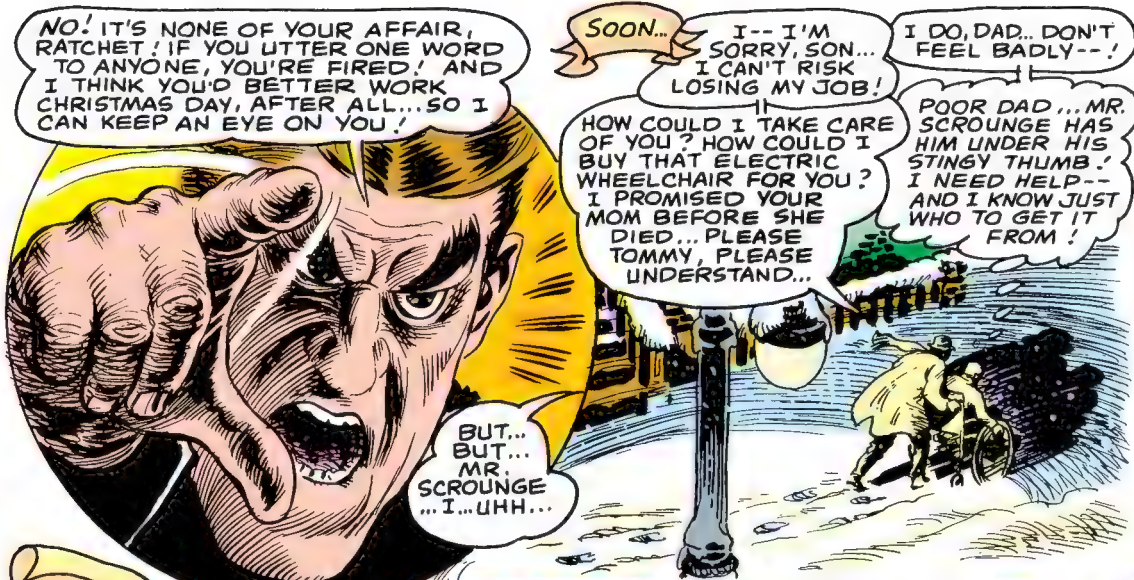
SHORTLY AFTER, IN SCROUNGE'S OLD RUN-DOWN MANSION...

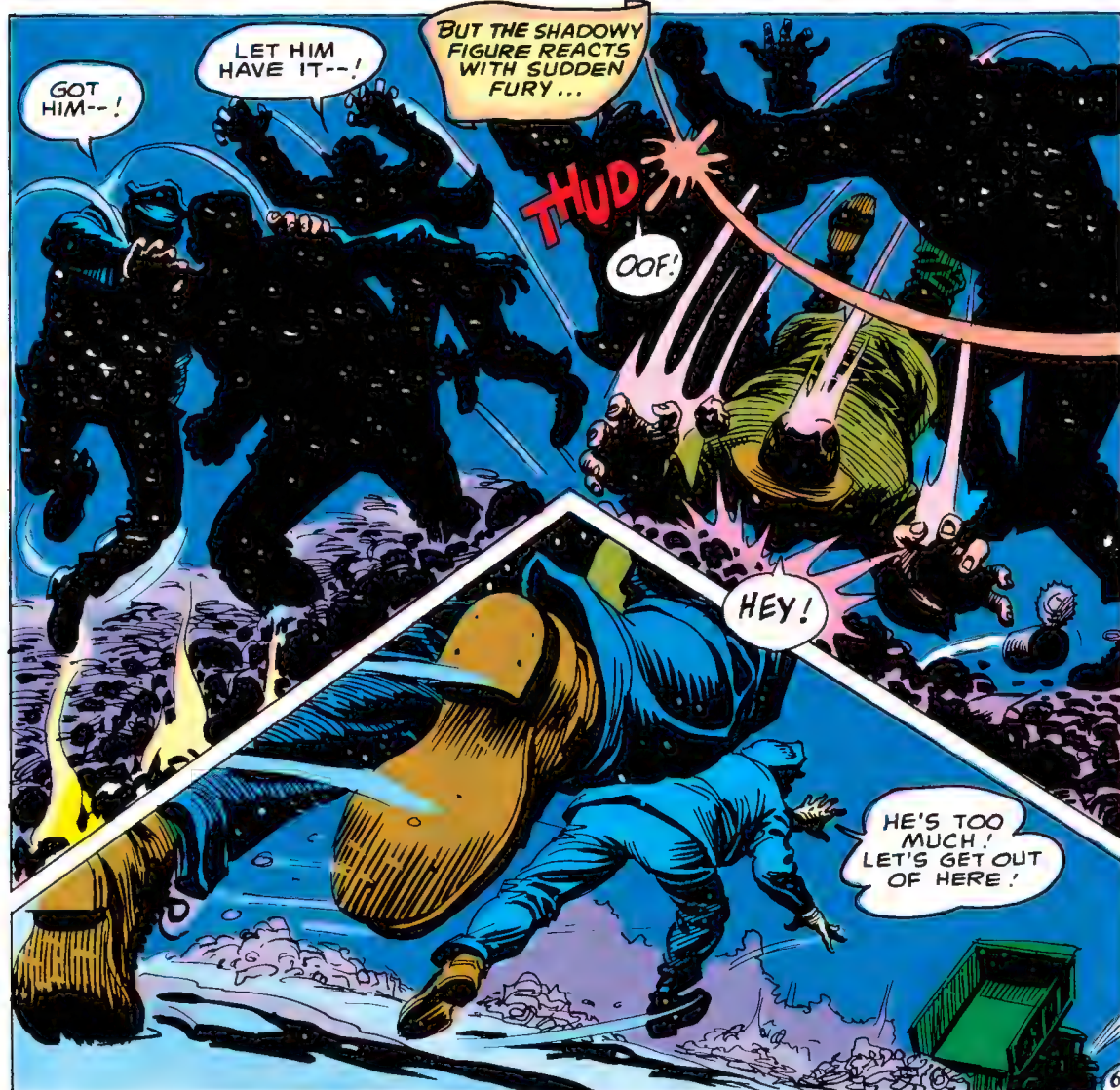
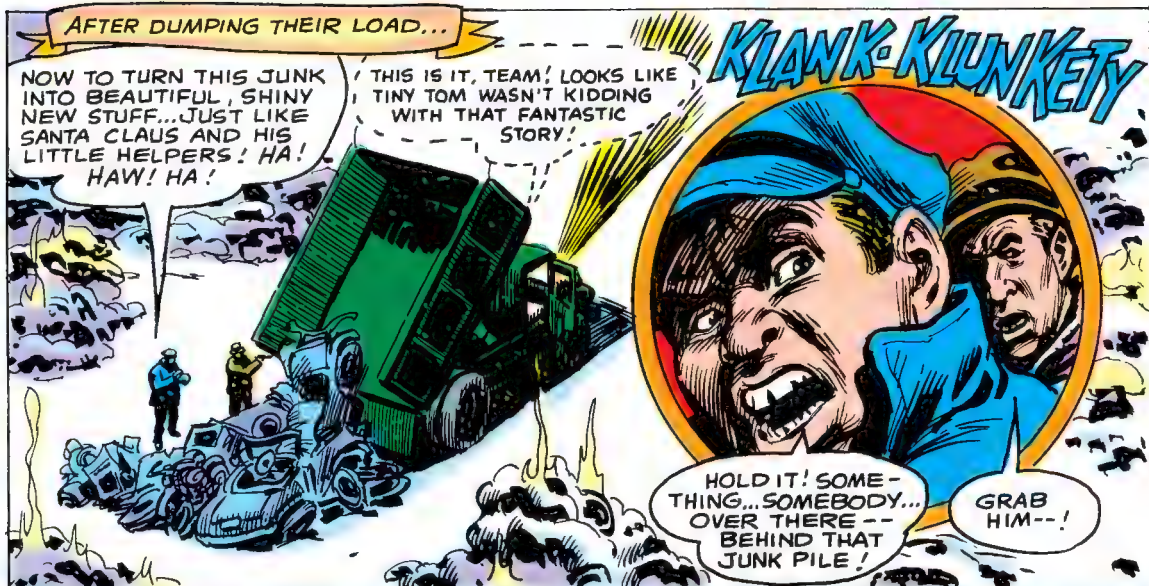
WHAT?? YOU ACCUSE ME OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES? YOU'RE WRONG, RATCHET!

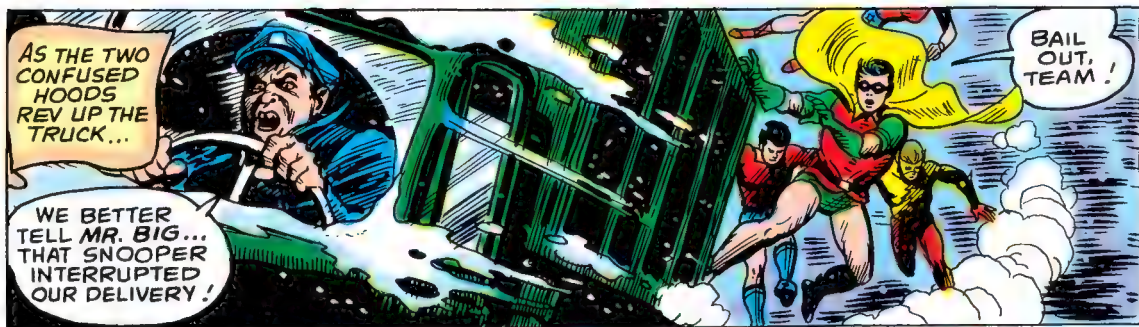
I SIMPLY RENT MY JUNKYARD TO: HARRUMPH! BUSINESSMEN! WHAT THEY DO THERE IS THEIR BUSINESS!



BUT SIR...IT'S ILLEGAL BUSINESS! WE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE!





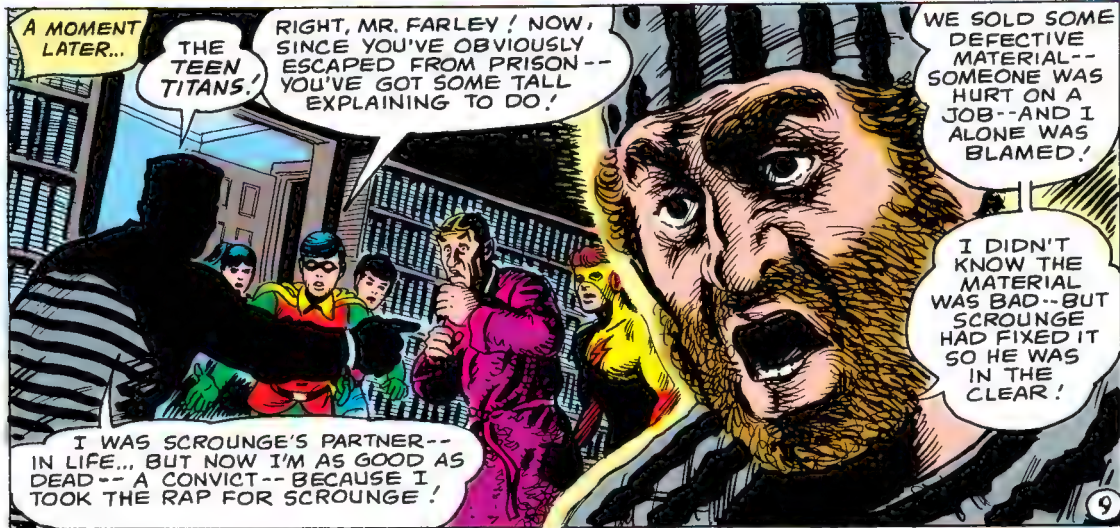
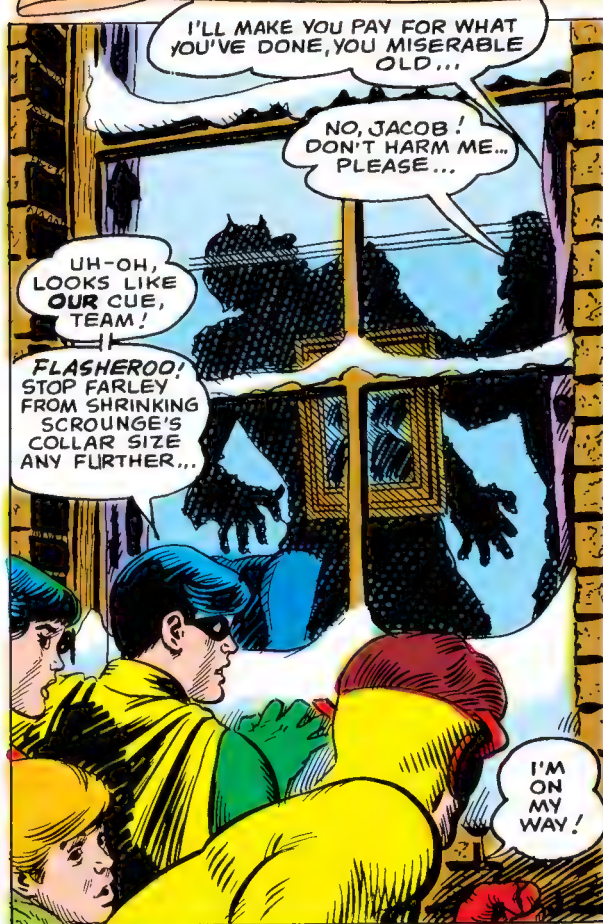


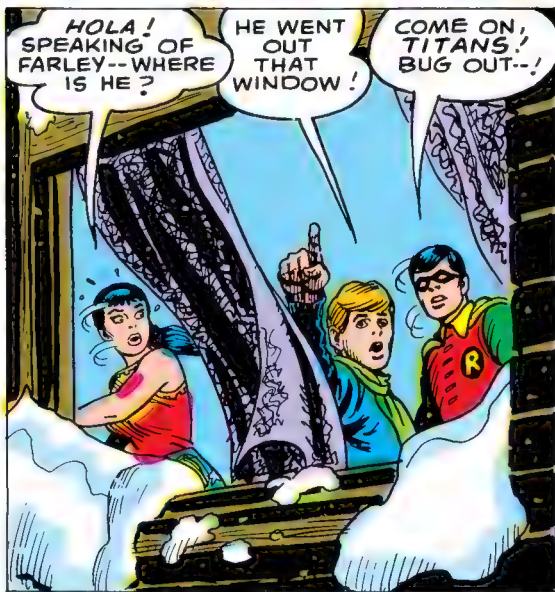


The T's Swingin' Christmas Carol!

CHAPTER
2

EBENEZER SCROUNGE, MISER FIRST CLASS, HAS JUST OPENED THE DOOR TO RECEIVE THE FRIENDLY GREETING OF HIS OLD PARTNER, JACOB FARLEY, AN ESCAPED CONVICT. WATCHING THIS TENDER REUNION ARE...THE TEEN TITANS AND TINY TOM!

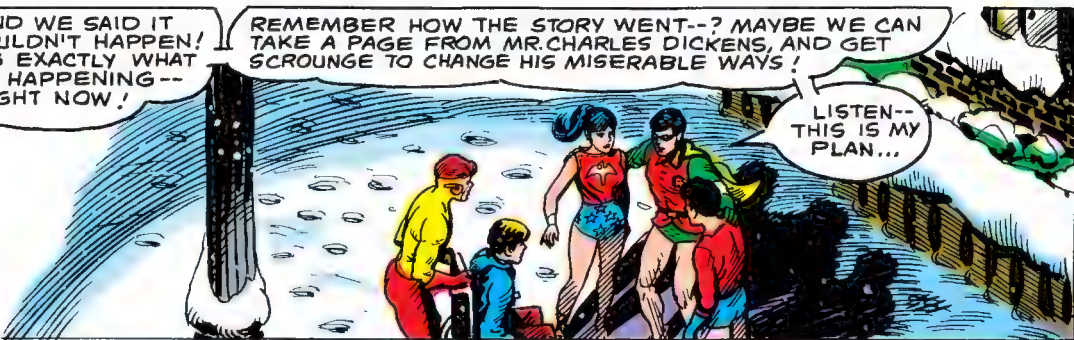




AND WE SAID IT COULDN'T HAPPEN! IT'S EXACTLY WHAT IS HAPPENING-- RIGHT NOW!

REMEMBER HOW THE STORY WENT--? MAYBE WE CAN TAKE A PAGE FROM MR. CHARLES DICKENS, AND GET SCROUNGE TO CHANGE HIS MISERABLE WAYS!

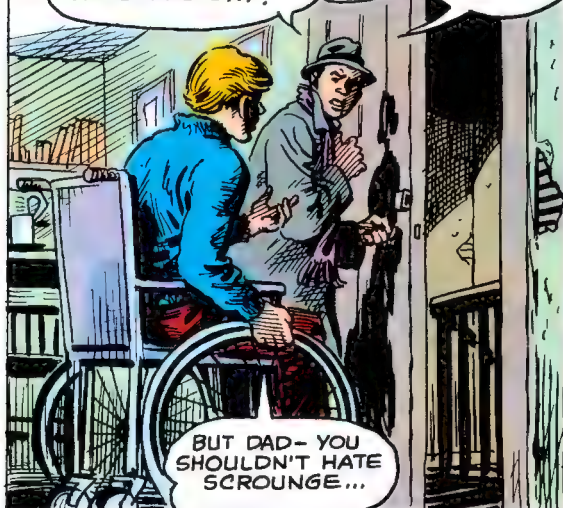
LISTEN-- THIS IS MY PLAN...



THE FOLLOWING DAY, WHICH IS THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS...

SO LONG, TOMMY BOY-- TIME FOR ME TO GO TO WORK! THAT ROTTEN SCROUNGE, MAKING ME WORK TOMORROW, TOO-- ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

I... I HATE THAT OLD TYRANT!



BUT DAD-- YOU SHOULDN'T HATE SCROUNGE...

HE'S A PATHETIC MAN--AN UNHAPPY OLD GUY! I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM... REALLY I DO!

YOU'RE RIGHT, TOMMY! YOU'RE THE GREATEST, NICEST KID IN THE WORLD --AND I'M LUCKY TO BE YOUR DAD!

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR!



IN A WHILE, CROCODILE!

SOON, IN THE OFFICE OF JUNK-O-RAMA...

FASTER, RATCHET-- YOU'RE DAWDLING... WASTING TIME AND MONEY!

BUT MR. SCROUNGE, SIR, MY FINGERS ARE SO COLD, I CAN HARDLY WRITE!

HUMBUG! YOU'RE LAZY-- AFRAID OF HARD WORK!



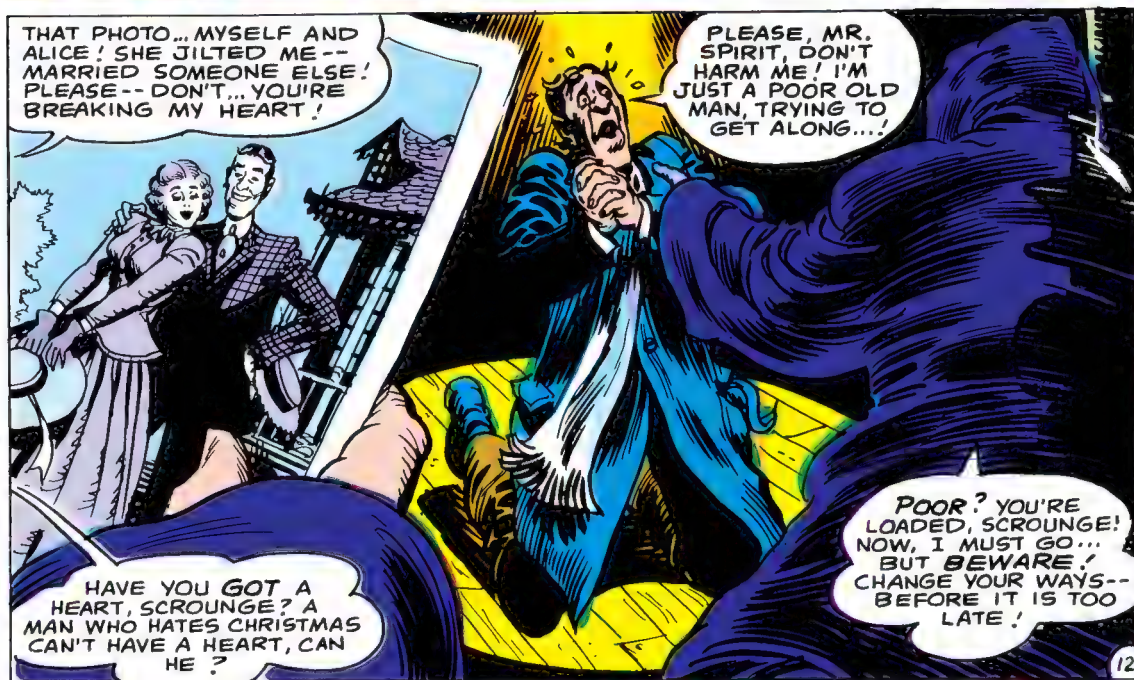
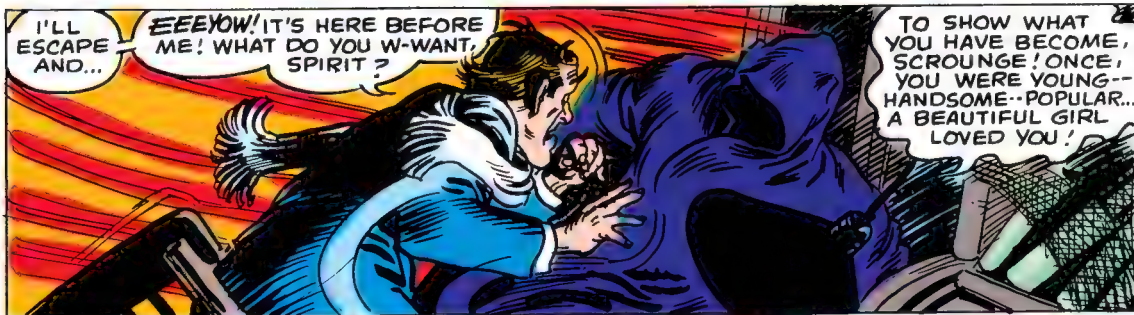
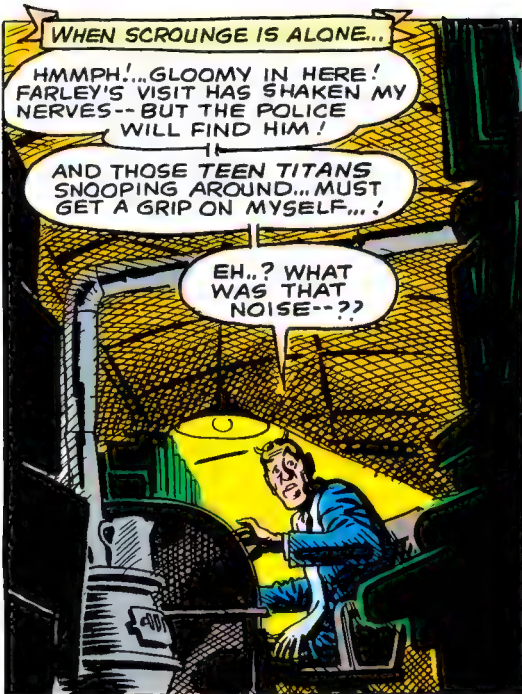
MANY LONG, HARD HOURS LATER, AS CHRISTMAS EVE ARRIVES...

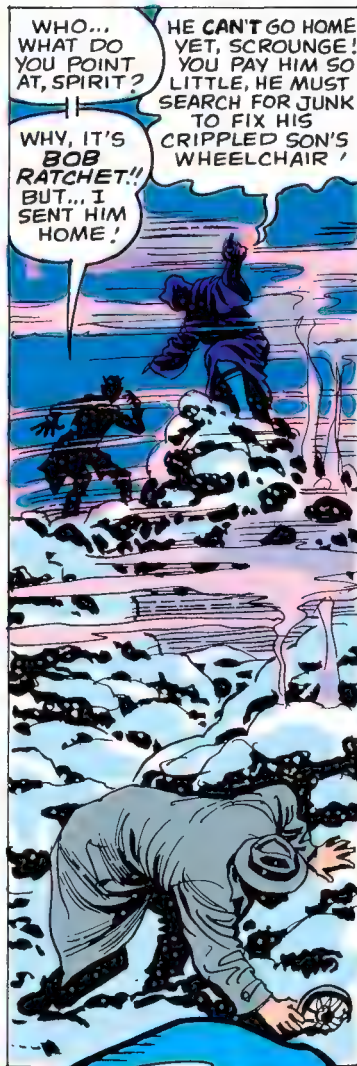
WELL, GOOD-NIGHT, SIR... AND MERRY CHRISTMAS, ANYWAY!

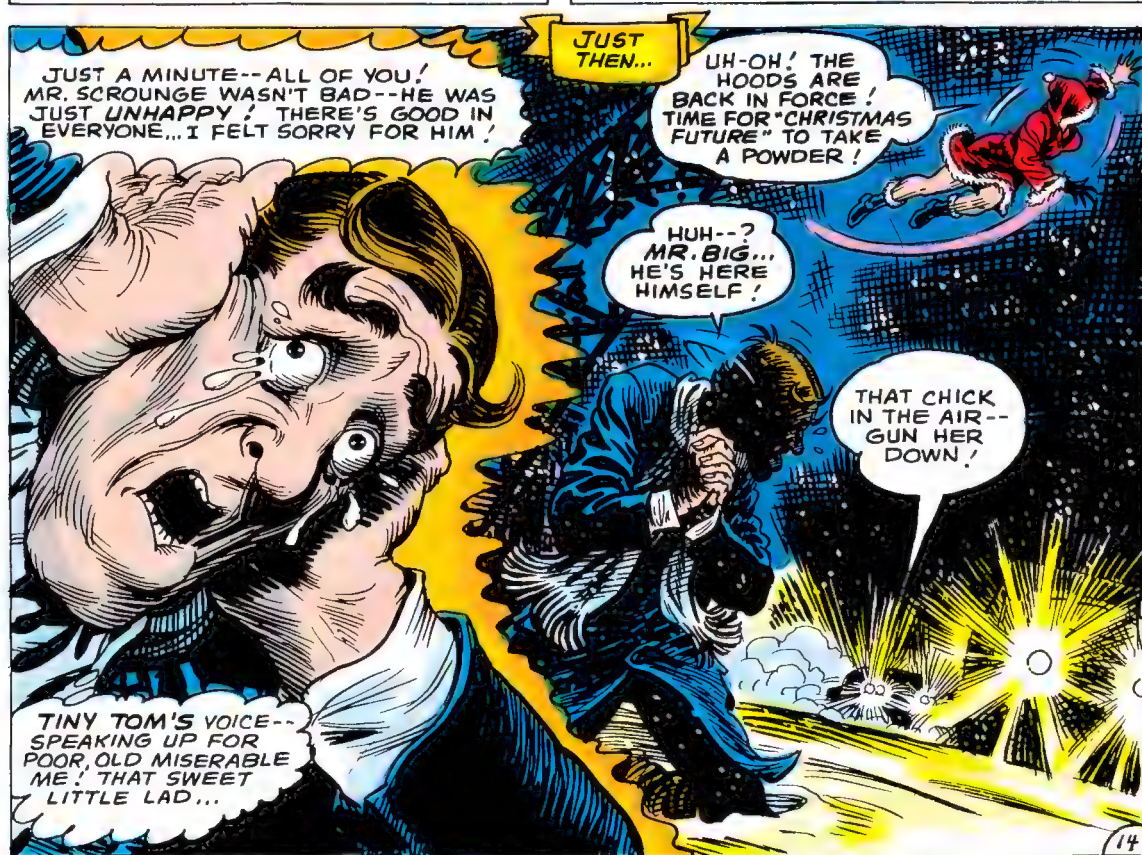
HUMBUG, RATCHET! GO-- AND DON'T FORGET TO BE HERE TOMORROW!

MUST GET HIM OUT OF HERE... ANOTHER DELIVERY MAY ARRIVE ANY MOMENT!











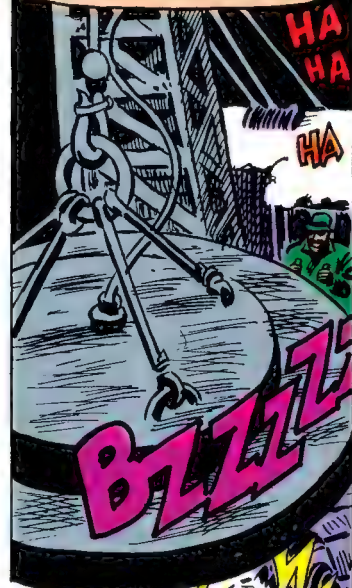
The Tt's Swingin' Christmas Carol!

CHAPTER 3

CHRISTMAS EVE...SNOW SOFTLY FALLING...FESTIVE LIGHTS TWINKLING! PEACE ON EARTH--GOODWILL TO MEN! YES, SILENT NIGHT, JOYFUL TIME, AND IN THE JUNK-O-RAMA OF EBENEZER SCROUNGE, NOTHING IS HEARD BUT THE SOUNDS OF GUNS, FISTS AND GRUNTS!



BUT AS WONDER GIRL IS PULLED TO SAFETY BY HER TEAMMATES...



SUFFERING STICKLEBACKS! THEY'RE YANKING MISS PONYTAIL OUT OF OUR EVER-LOVIN' HANDS!

HER BRACELETS... THEY'RE BEING MAGNETIZED!



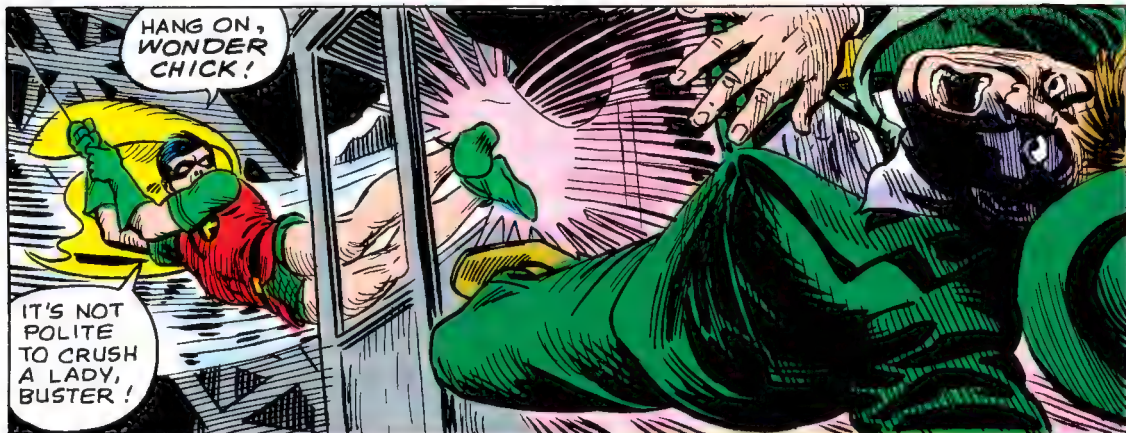
HOLY FLATIRONS! SHE'S BEING DROPPED INTO THE CAR CRUSHER!

AN INSTANT LATER, THE GIRL FROM PARADISE ISLAND LIES BETWEEN THE FANTASTICALLY POWERFUL CRUSHING BLOCKS...



AS THE BLOCKBUSTER POWER OF THE CAR-COMPACTOR HITS THE GORGEOUS TITANESS...



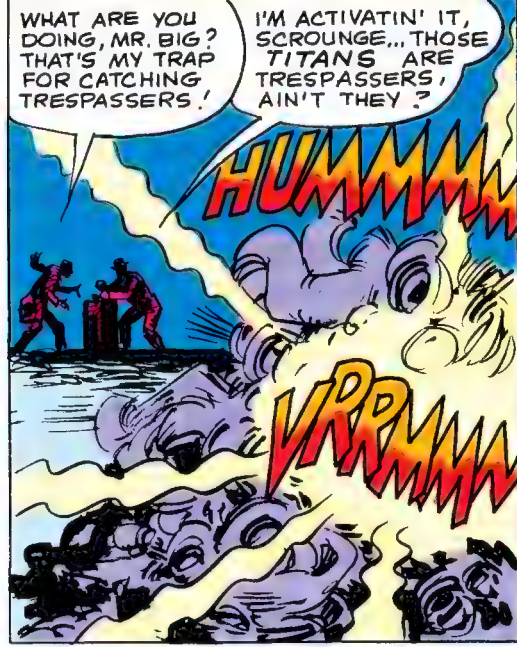


HANG ON, WONDER CHICK!

IT'S NOT POLITE TO CRUSH A LADY, BUSTER!

THEN, AS ROBIN QUICKLY SWITCHES OFF THE CRUSHER'S POWER...

AS THE BIZARRE ANTI-BURGLAR DEVICE GOES INTO ACTION...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MR. BIG? THAT'S MY TRAP FOR CATCHING TRESPASSERS!

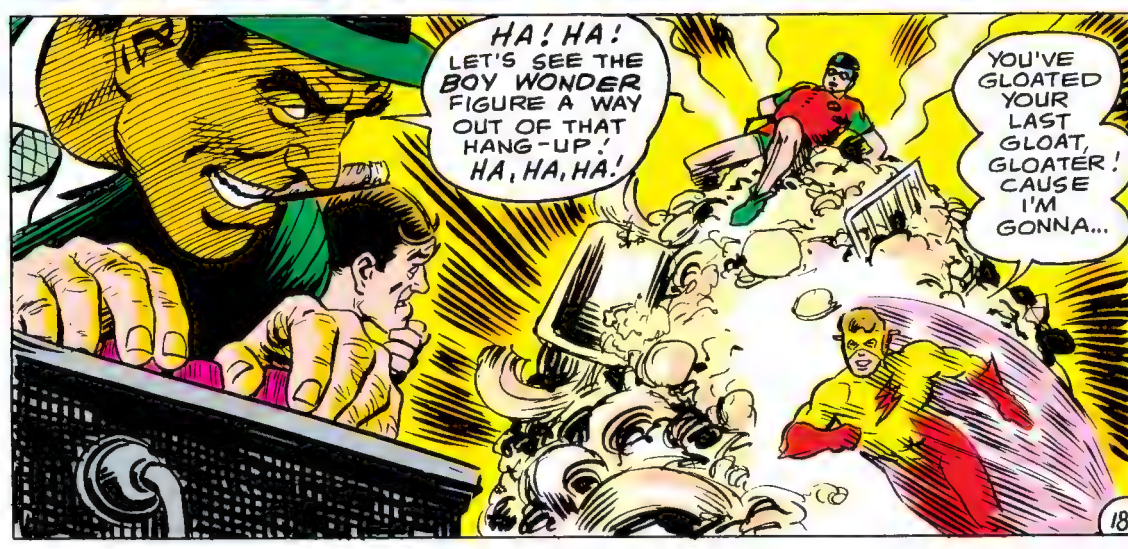
I'M ACTIVATIN' IT, SCROUNGE... THOSE TITANS ARE TRESPASSERS, AIN'T THEY?

HUMMM

VRRRR

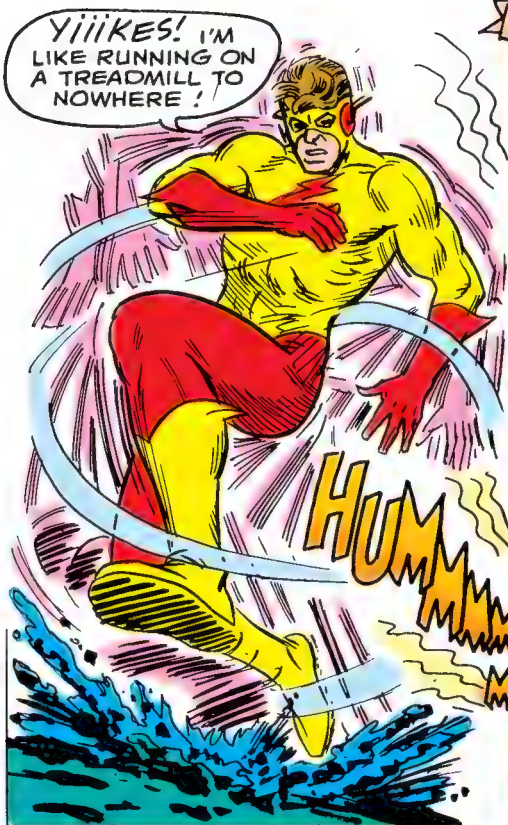


WHAT--? SOMETHING YANKING ME OFF THE BAT-ROPE! THAT CRAZY GIZMO...



HA! HA! LET'S SEE THE BOY WONDER FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THAT HANG-UP! HA, HA, HA!

YOU'VE GLOATED YOUR LAST GLOAT, GLOATER! CAUSE I'M GONNA...



YIIKES! I'M
LIKE RUNNING ON
A TREADMILL TO
NOWHERE!

NEXT INSTANT...

HA, HA!
SCRATCH
ANOTHER
TITAN!

MR. SCROUNGE!
STOP HIM! HE'S
CLOBBERING
THE TITANS!

BUT... I ...
AHH... UHH...



GRAB
HIM...
OOOF!

CAN'T IN THIS OIL! HE'S NOT
SLIDING... HE MUST BE
HALF EEL!

CORRECT,
CHUM... HALF EEL
AND ALL HAMMER-
HEAD!

BUT
SUDDENLY...

MOANING
MACKEREL!
WHAT'S
GOT
ME?

NOW, AS THE "JUNK TREE" CLAIMS
ANOTHER TITAN...

HOLA!
THE BOYS--
PRISONERS
ON THAT
CRAZY
THING!

I'LL TEAR
IT APART
WITH MY...

EEEEK!
IT HAS
ME, TOO!

THERE THEY ARE, SCROUNGE--
BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS
DECORATIONS!
HA! HA! HA!

WHY,
YOU
LITTLE...

BOYS,
FIX
THIS
KID!

YOU FINK!
I'LL MAKE YOU
FREE THE
TITANS!

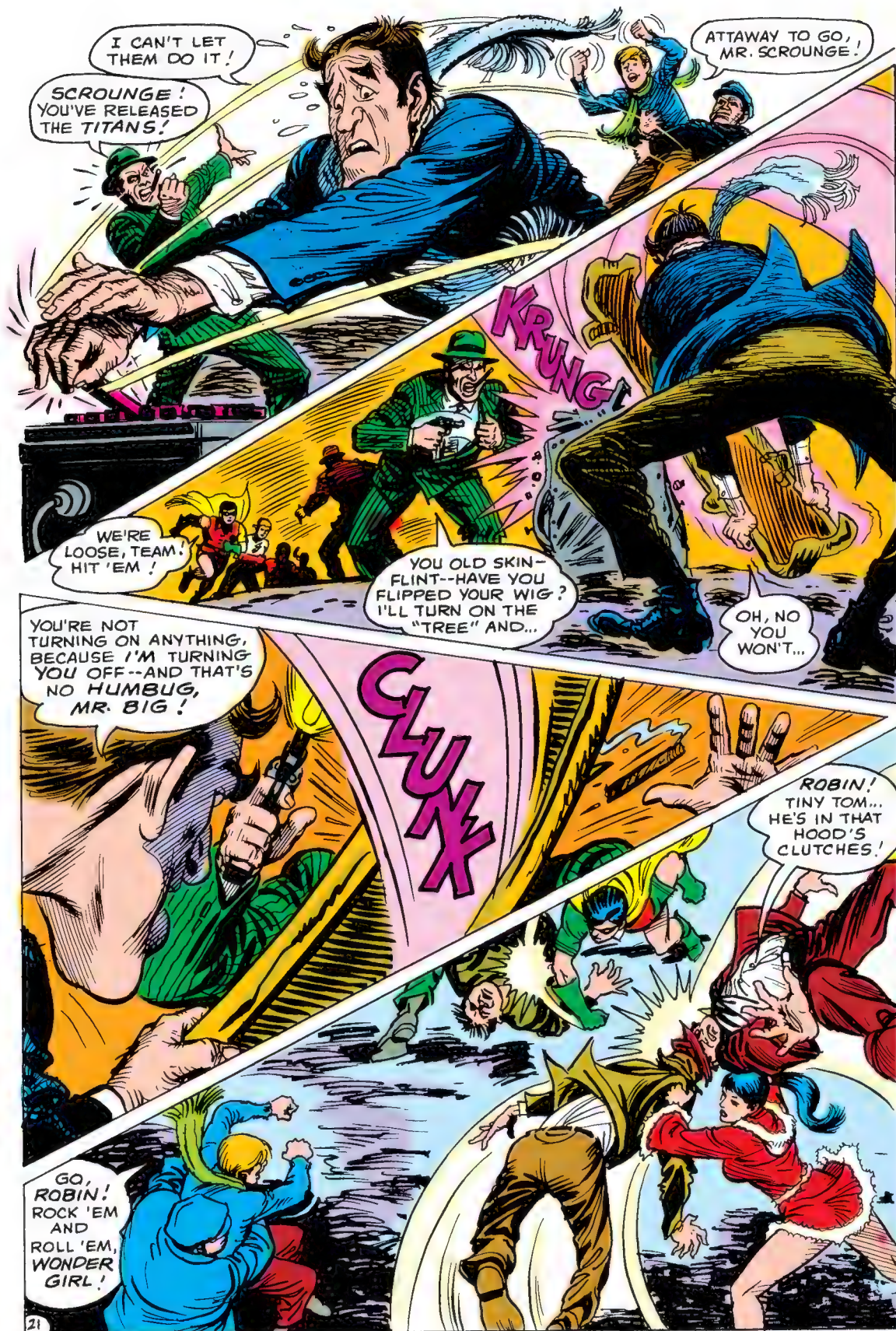
OOOFF!

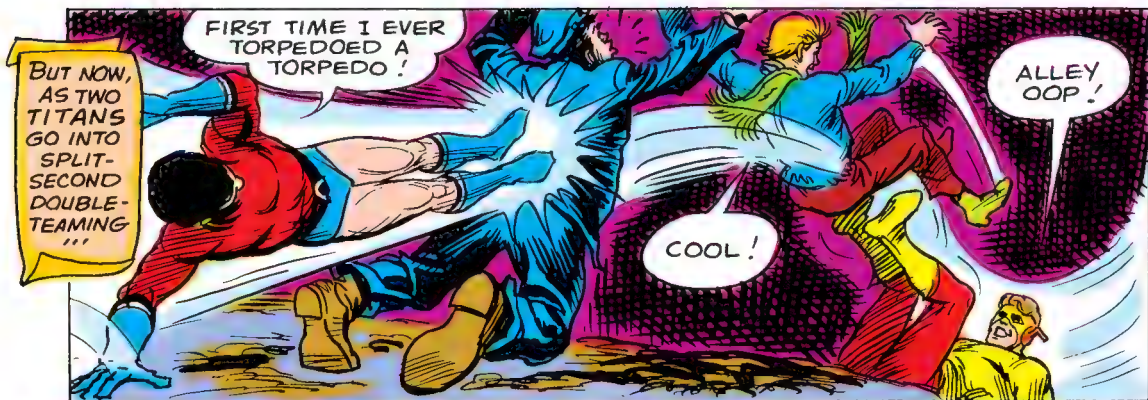
MY
WHEEL-
CHAIR!

NO!
DON'T!

ONE MORE
PIECE OF JUNK
IN THIS PLACE
WON'T MATTER,
HUH, BOSS?

KRUNCH





THEN WHEN MR. BIG'S HOODS SMASHED TINY TOM'S WHEELCHAIR, I SAW RED... I BECAME A CHANGED MAN! TINY TOM... WHO HAD DEFENDED A MISERABLE SKIN-FLINT LIKE ME!

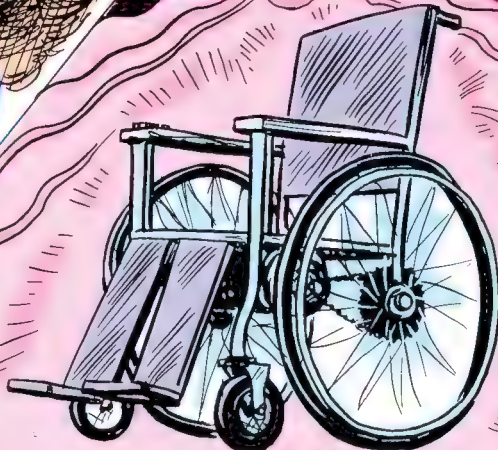
AND I'M GOING TO REMAIN A CHANGED MAN... YOUR DAD WON'T HAVE TO WORK TOMORROW, TOMMY-- AND HE GETS A NICE FAT RAISE!

AS FOR MY OLD PARTNER, FARLEY, I'LL DO MY BEST TO GET HIS SENTENCE CHANGED!

AND SO YOUR DAD WON'T HAVE TO SPEND HIS HARD-EARNED MONEY, I'LL USE MR. BIG'S SECRET JUNK TRANSFORMER TO MAKE YOUR OLD WHEELCHAIR INTO A NICE, NEW ELECTRIC MODEL!

THE GREATEST!

GROOVY!



SO NOW, HERE'S OUR TEEN TITANS CHRISTMAS CARD-- IN FAB, FOUR-COLOR TITANSCOPE! SEND IT TO A FRIEND--HE MIGHT BE AN EBENEZER SCROUNGE, TOO!

LIKE MY CHRISTMAS OUTFIT, TWINKLETOES? SANTA SCROUNGE REPLACED THE ONE THOSE HOODS RIPPED!

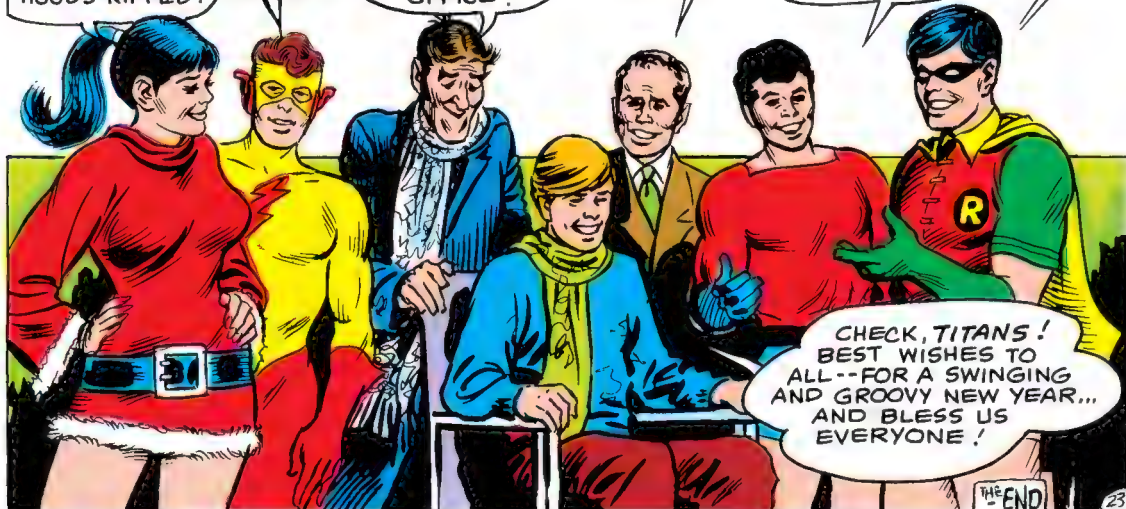
GEAR, W. G. ! I'D HANG OUT MY STOCKING, BUT MAYBE HE'D ONLY FILL IT WITH JUNK!

GOLD-PLATED JUNK, YOUNG MAN! AND BOB RATCHET, I'M GIVING YOU ANOTHER PRESENT...A NEW HEATER IN THE OFFICE!

THANK YOU, SIR--YOU'RE REAL WARM-HEARTED... HA! HA!

HEY, ROBIN-O, HOW COULD ANYONE HAVE AS MARV A CHRISTMAS AS WE ARE?

LET'S LET TINY TOM ANSWER THAT!



THE YEAR IS 2979 A.D., THE CITY IS METROPOLIS, THE PLANET EARTH, AND THE FLYING FIGURE IS, OF COURSE, **SUPERBOY**, BREAKING THE **TIME BARRIER** TO VISIT THE MOST **EXTRAORDINARY** BAND OF HEROIC YOUTHS IN THE GALAXY...

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

*Star Light,
Star Bright...*
**FARTHEST STAR
I SEE TONIGHT!**

LEGION HEADQUARTERS IS COMING TOGETHER AGAIN QUICKLY. I SEE... TOO BAD IT COULDN'T BE FINISHED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY!

BUT I GUESS THAT'S TOO BIG A PRESENT TO EXPECT FROM SANTA!

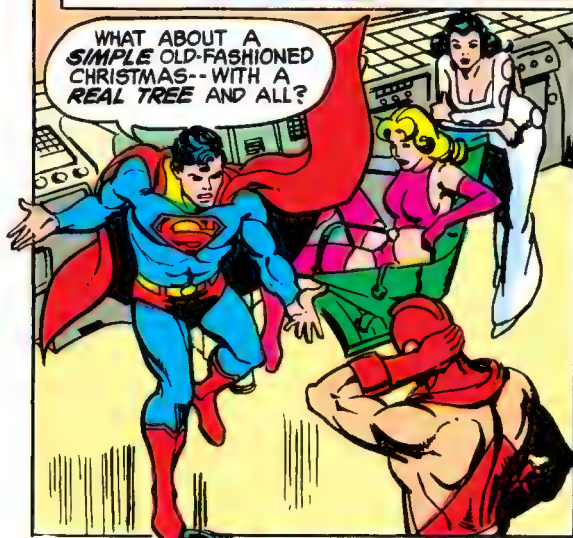
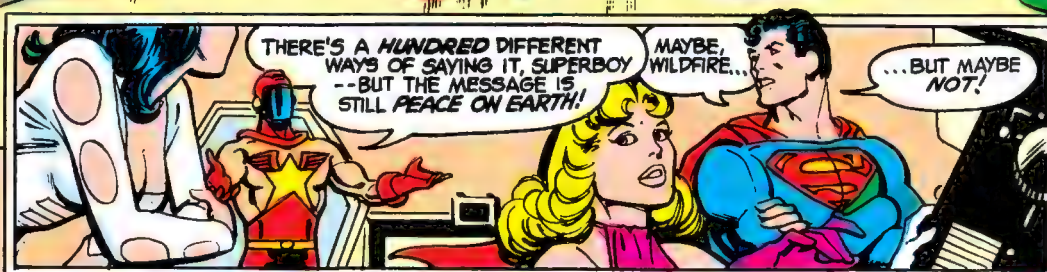
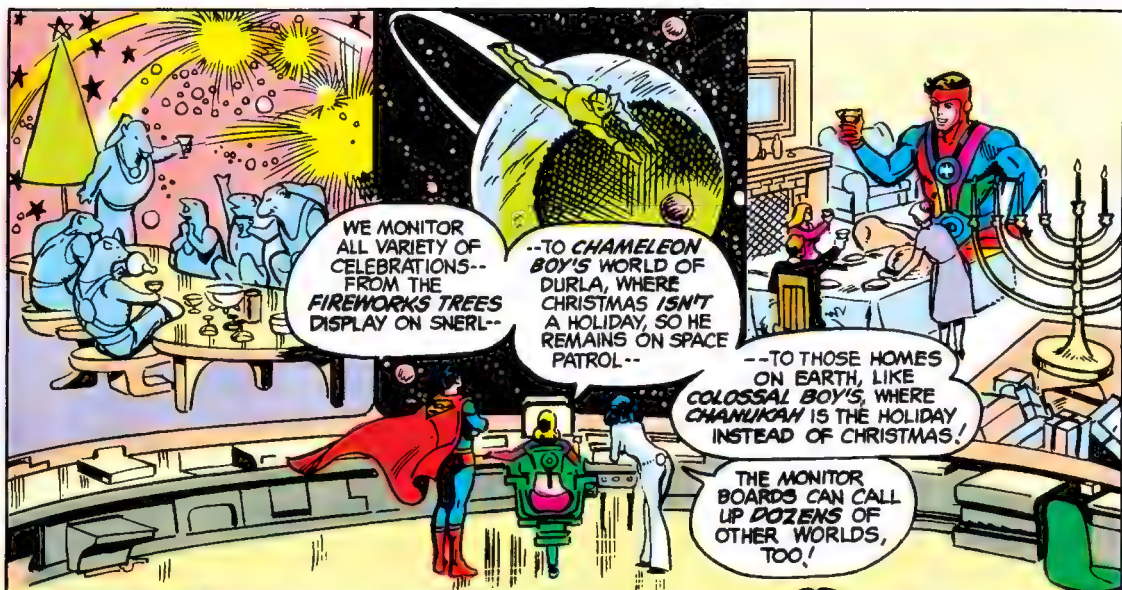
PAUL LEVITZ
WRITER

JOSE LUIS GARCIA-LOPEZ & DICK GIORDANO
ARTISTS

BEN ODA-LETTERER
JERRY SERPE-COLORIST

LEN WEIN
EDITOR





MOMENTS LATER, IN DEEP SPACE...

I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW YOU TALKED US INTO THIS, SUPERBOY! TALK ABOUT COSMIC WILD GOOSE CHASES!

COME OFF IT, WILDFIRE-- MON-EL CAN TAKE CARE OF THINGS AT HEADQUARTERS FINE, AND WE DESERVE THE NIGHT OFF!

YEAH, BUT CHASING A LEGEND...?

IT'S AN EASY COURSE.

LIGHTNING LAD, YOU MAKE THOSE NAVIGATION COMPUTERS SIT UP AND DO HAND-STANDS!

NO-- I'M MERELY PROTECTING STAR PATTERNS BASED ON KNOWN HISTORY. WE HAVE ENOUGH FACTS.

WHAT WE DON'T HAVE IS THE STAR!

HUNH?

THESE ARE THE COORDINATES, SUPERBOY--WE SHOULD BE IN ORBIT AROUND IT NOW, BUT THERE'S NO STAR THERE.

NO SIGN OF ONE EVER HAVING BEEN THERE, EITHER!

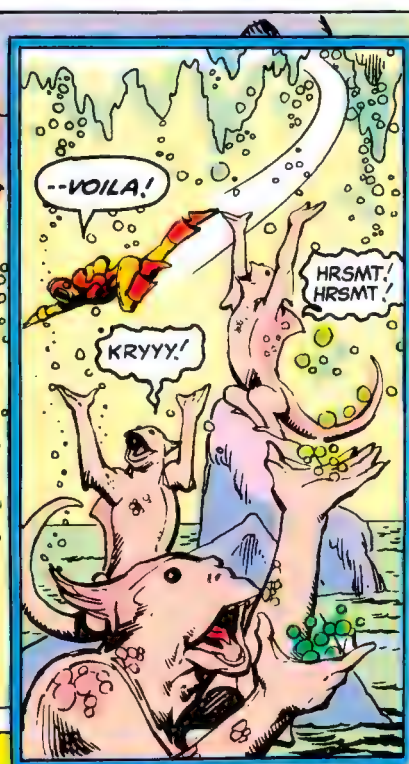
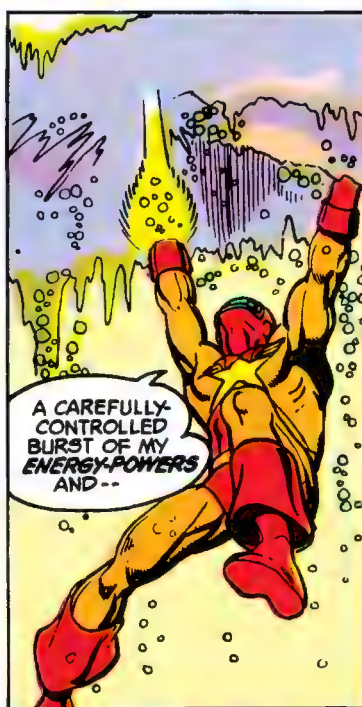
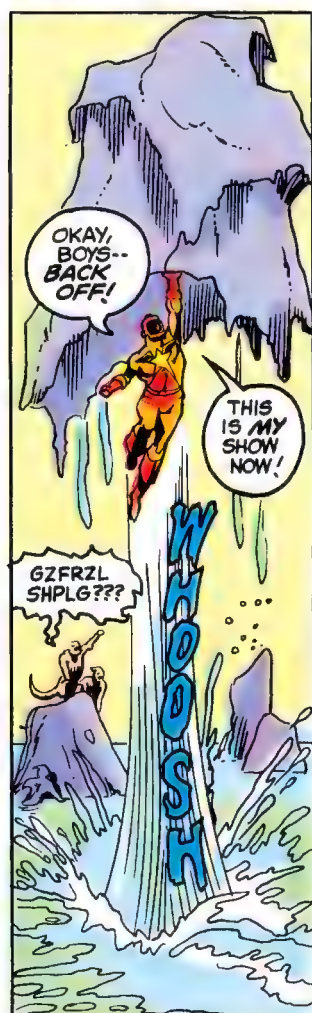
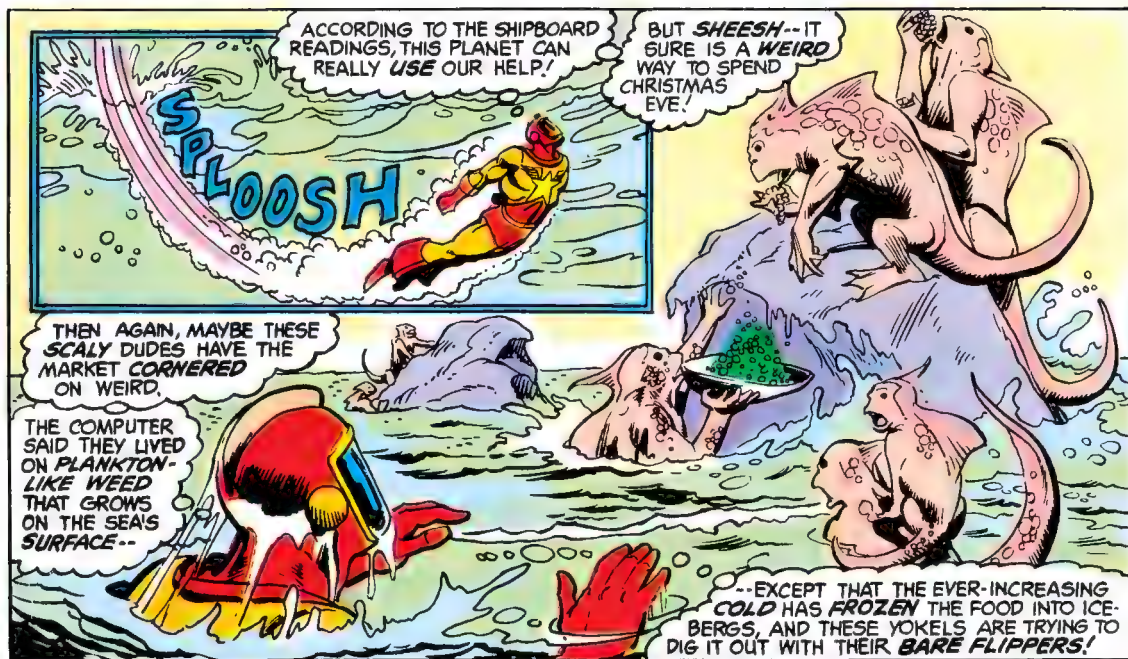
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

AGREED.

BUT ALL THAT'S IN MY SCOPE IS A LONELY LITTLE PLANET ... NOT A STAR.

"I SUPPOSE IT'S ACADEMIC TO ASK IF ANYONE WANTS TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND."

"THOUGHT SO."



MEANWHILE...

THAT SHOULD MARK OUR
DESTINATION, PHANTOM GIRL!

CHECK,
LIGHTNING LAD!

THERE THEY ARE--THIS
PLANET'S DOMINANT RACE
OF LAND-DWELLERS, TRYING
DESPERATELY TO KEEP
WARM!

YES--BUT
LOOK,
LIGHTNING LAD!

WHAT THEY'RE
BURNING TO DO
THAT IS THEIR
OWN CROPS!

THAT'S CRAZY--
THEY'LL LAST OUT
THE NIGHT BUT
STARVE IN THE
MORNING!

THEY MUST
HAVE RUN OUT
OF OTHER
THINGS TO
BURN!

ONE OF THEM'S
EVEN WANDERED
INTO THE FIRE!

GZFRZL

KEEP
BACK,
LIGHTNING
LAD--

--THIS IS A
PERFECT RES-
CUE FOR ME IN
PHANTOM
FORM.

THE FLAMES
CAN'T TOUCH
ME.

EASY,
MAM... I'VE
GOT YOU.

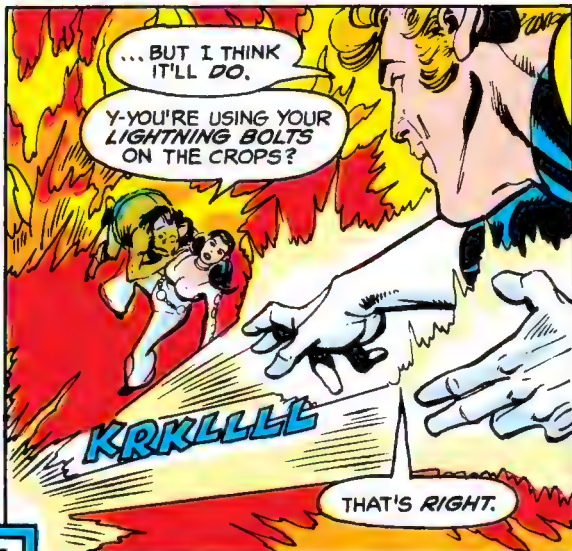
GZFRZL???

THE ONLY QUESTION
IS--WHAT DO I
DO NOW?



THE FLAMES ARE TOO CLOSE FOR ME TO FLY HER OUT, LIGHTNING LAD-- ANY IDEAS?

JUST ONE...



... BUT I THINK IT'LL DO.

Y-YOU'RE USING YOUR LIGHTNING BOLTS ON THE CROPS?

KRRLLLL

THAT'S RIGHT.



I'M CARVING AN AREA OF BARE ROCK!

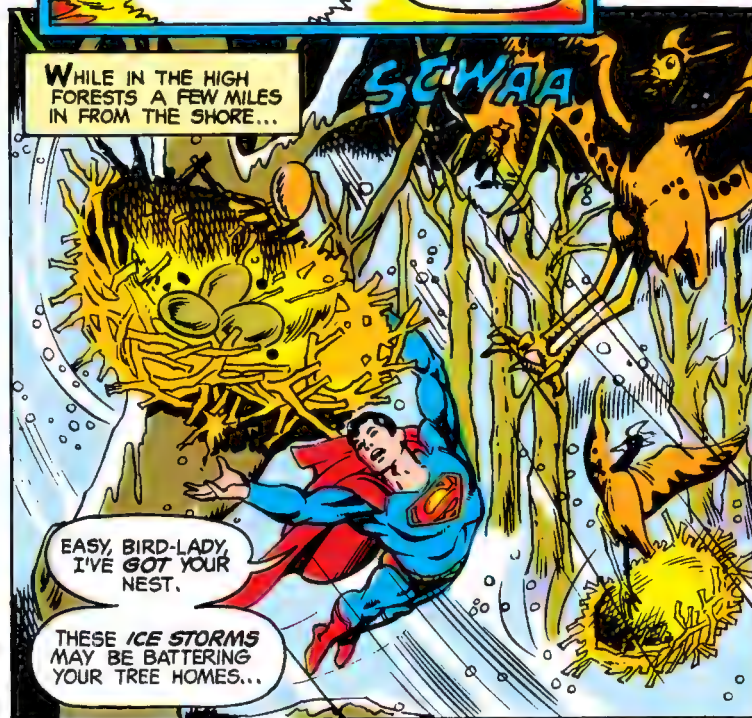
... WHERE NOTHING CAN BURN, RIGHT!

GOOD TRICK, PAL!



AND HERE YOU ARE, MADAM-- HOME FREE...

EVEN IF TOMORROW STILL DOESN'T LOOK ANY BRIGHTER!

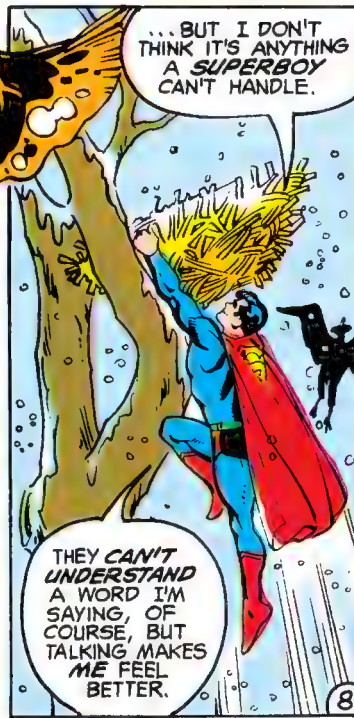


WHILE IN THE HIGH FORESTS A FEW MILES IN FROM THE SHORE...

SCWAA

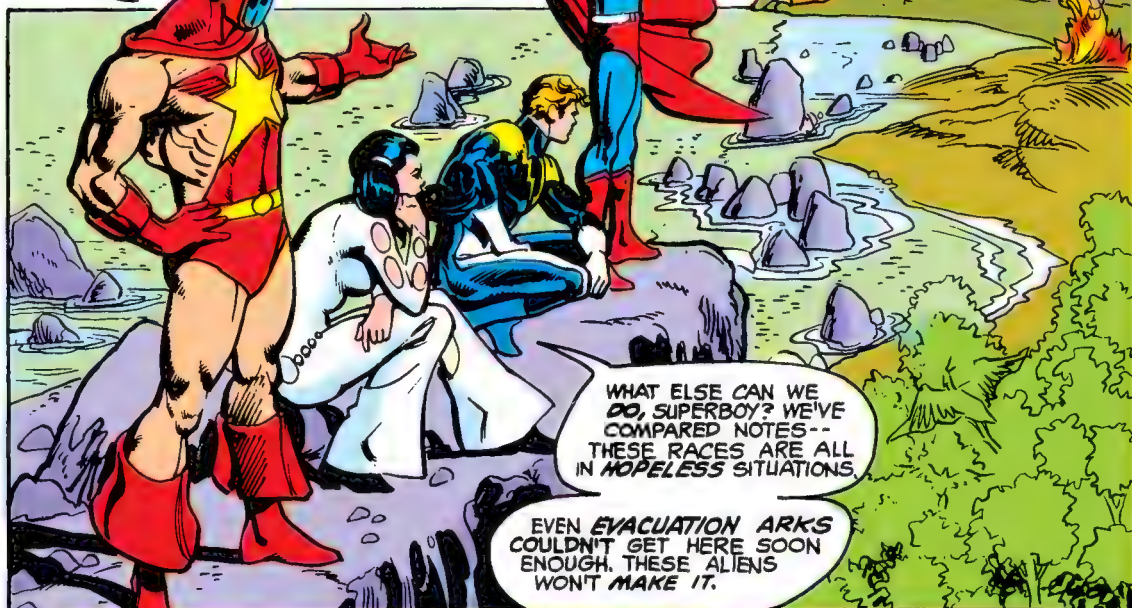
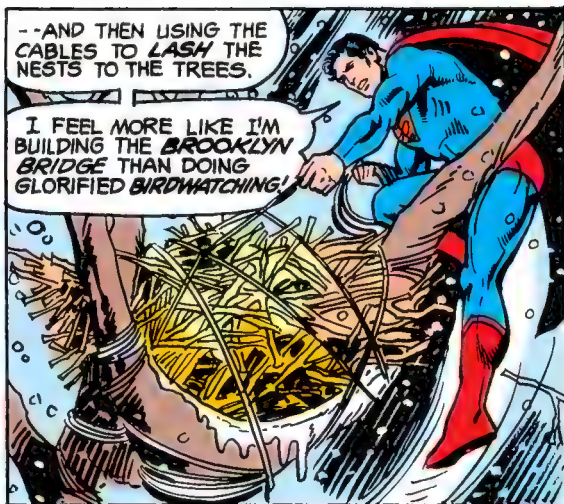
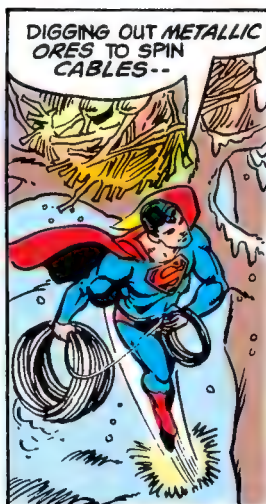
EASY, BIRD-LADY, I'VE GOT YOUR NEST.

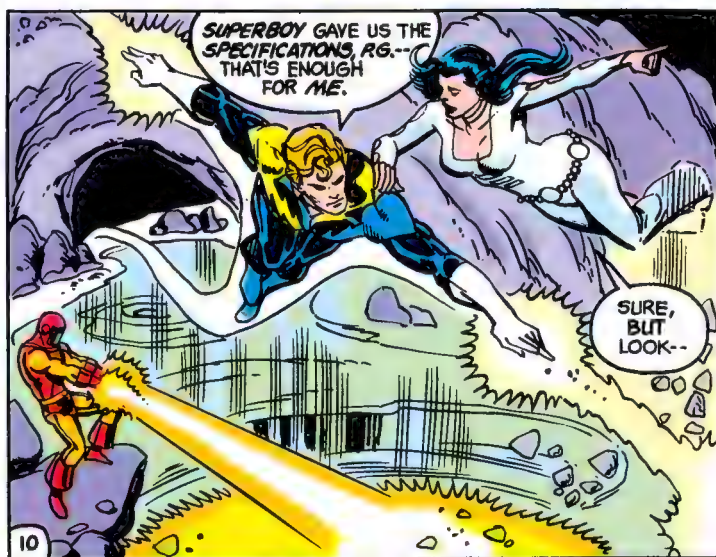
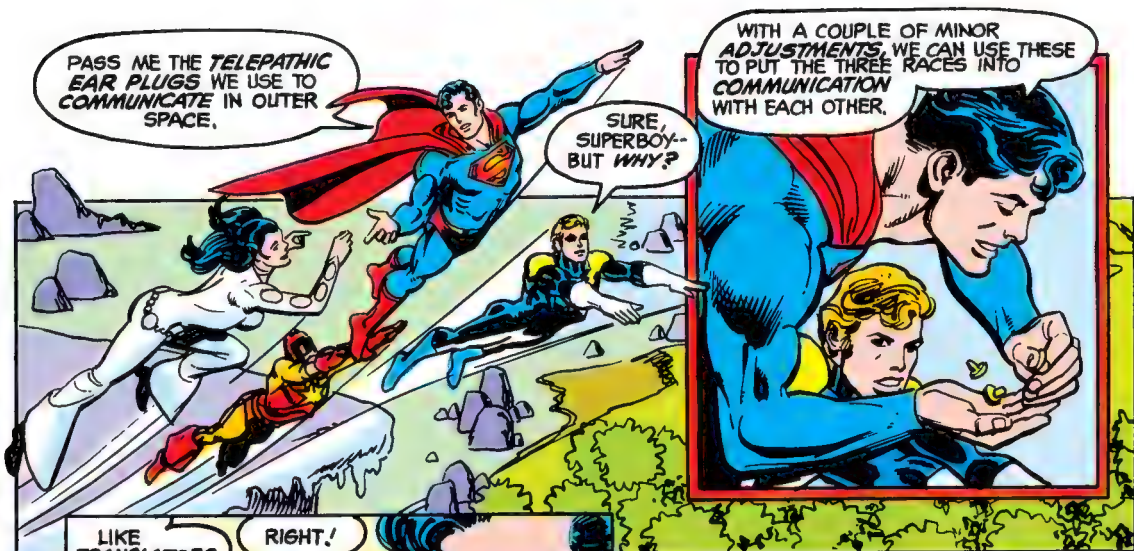
THESE ICE STORMS MAY BE BATTERING YOUR TREE HOMES...

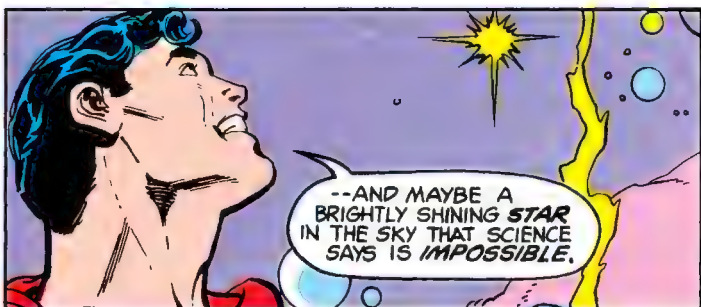


... BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING A SUPERBOY CAN'T HANDLE.

THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD I'M SAYING, OF COURSE, BUT TALKING MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.







DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS...

SUPERMAN[®] and Santa Clays

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

... TOGETHER IN A FAIRY TALE
TO BOGGLE THE IMAGINATION!

CHRISTMAS EVE
IN METROPOLIS --
WHERE THE DAILY
DECORATED STREETS
ARE CROWDED WITH
LAST-MINUTE
SHOPPERS, THEIR
ARMS FILLED WITH
BUNDLES AND
HOLIDAY CHEER...

BUT EVEN TONIGHT
IN THE VERY THICK
OF THE SEASON
OF PEACE ON
EARTH AND GOOD
WILL TOWARD
MEN, THE SINISTER
SPECTER OF CRIME
REARS ITS UGLY
HEAD...

WELL, SORT OF...

OKAY,
WHISKERS...
STICK
'EM UP!

JUST HAND OVER
ALL YOUR MONEY--
OR I'LL
PLUS YA!

TAKE A
HIKE, KID--
YA BOTHER
ME!

"T'WAS THE FRIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS!"

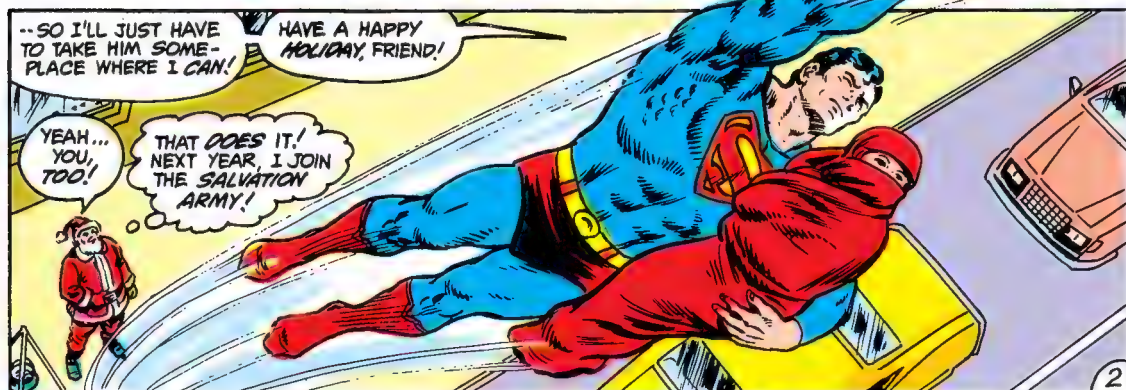
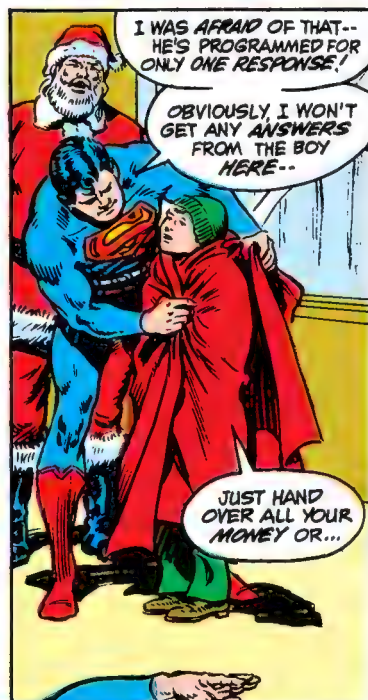
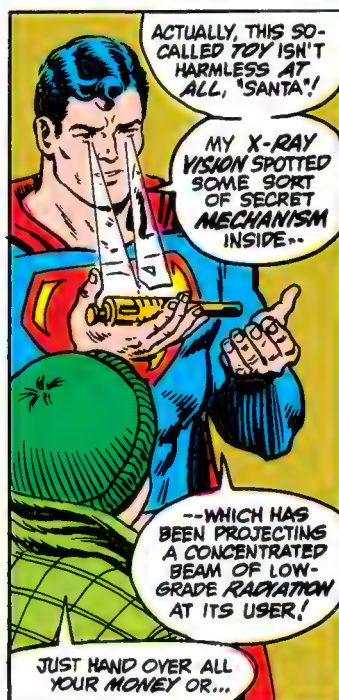
LEN WEIN
CO-PLOTTER/
SCRIPTER

E. NELSON
BRIDWELL
CO-PLOTTER

CURT SWAN AND
MURPHY ANDERSON
ILLUSTRATORS

BEN ODA-LETTERER
JERRY SERPE
COLORIST

JULIUS
SCHWARTZ
EDITOR



MOMENTS LATER, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, AT THE VERY TOP OF THE WORLD...

THE BEST PLACE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF ALL THIS IS MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE!

MY INDESTRUCTIBLE CAPE WILL INSULATE THE BOY FROM THE ARCTIC COLD...

--AND THIS ALIEN PSYCHE-PSIPHON SHOULD HELP ME BREAK THE HYPNOTIC HOLD ON HIM WITHOUT ACCIDENTALLY DAMAGING HIS MIND!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SON? CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?

IT -- IT'S TIMMY... TIMMY DICKENS!

BUT WHO... WHERE...

WOW!

IS -- IS IT REALLY YOU? ARE YOU REALLY SUPERMAN?

GUILTY AS CHARGED, TIM. HOPE I DIDN'T FRIGHTEN YOU.

ME? HEY-- NO WAY!

IS THIS YOUR CLUBHOUSE? IT'S TOTALLY AWESOME!

CALL IT MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME, TIM. I BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE OF THIS!

IT WAS RIGGED TO HYPNOTIZE YOU THE FIRST TIME IT WAS FIRED -- AS WELL AS TO PLAY YOU A BRIEF TAPED INSTRUCTION MESSAGE, WHICH THEN SELF-DESTRUCTED!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THIS, TIM?

SURE...

"...IT WAS HIDDEN IN THE HALL CLOSET WITH ALL MY OTHER PRESENTS ..."

"MY FOLKS STILL LIKE TO PRETEND SANTA CLAUS DELIVERS 'EM ON CHRISTMAS EVE--"

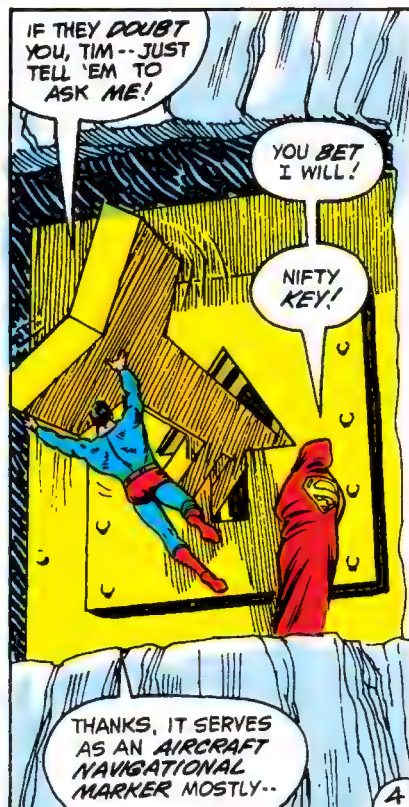
"...BUT I'M TOO OLD TO BELIEVE IN SANTA, SO I SNUCK IN TO CHECK 'EM OUT EARLY..."

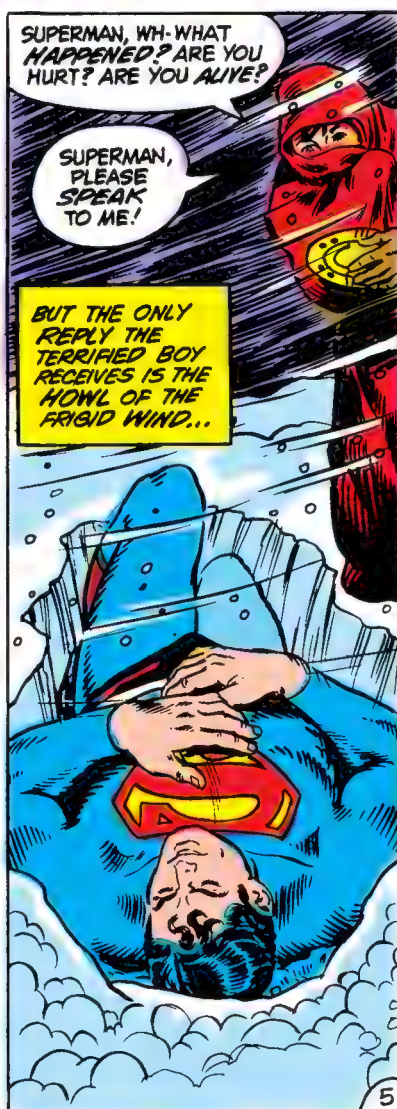
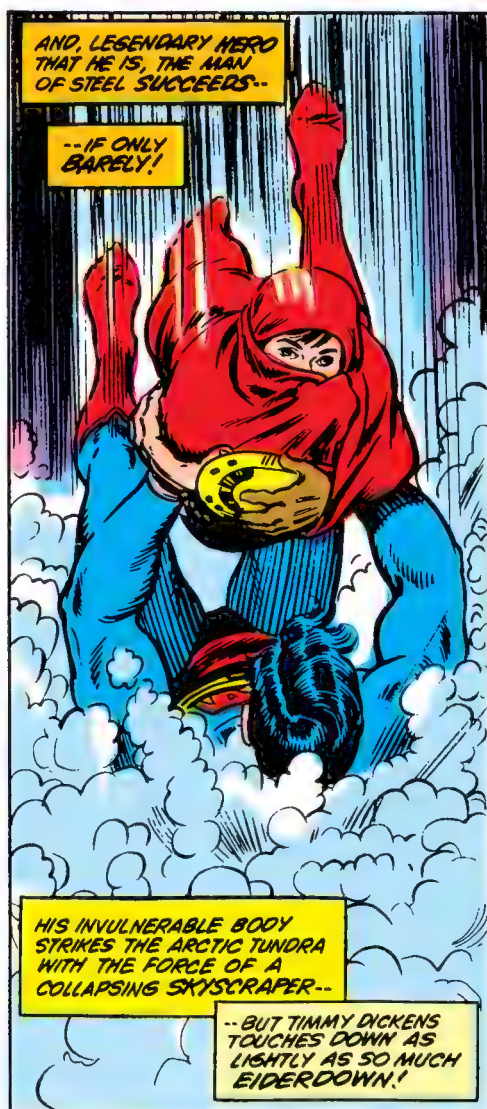
"I REMEMBER A BLINDING FLASH WHEN I TRIED OUT THE DART GUN--"

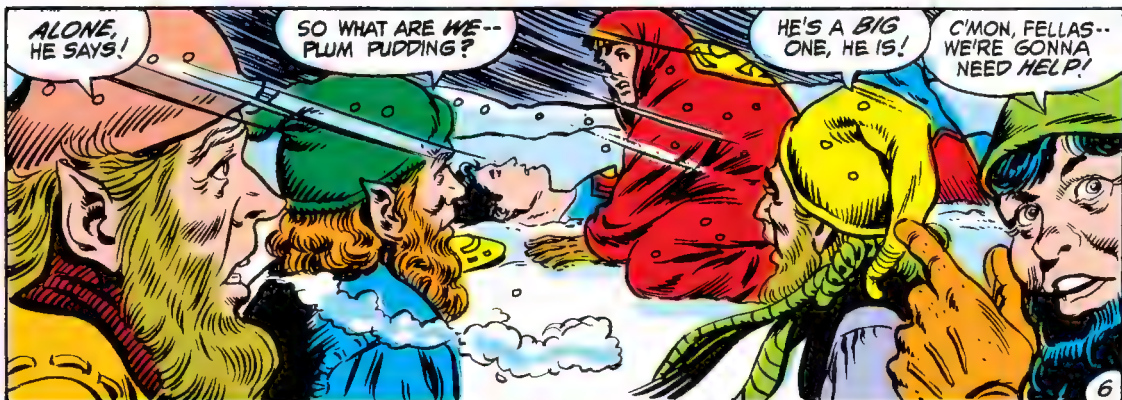
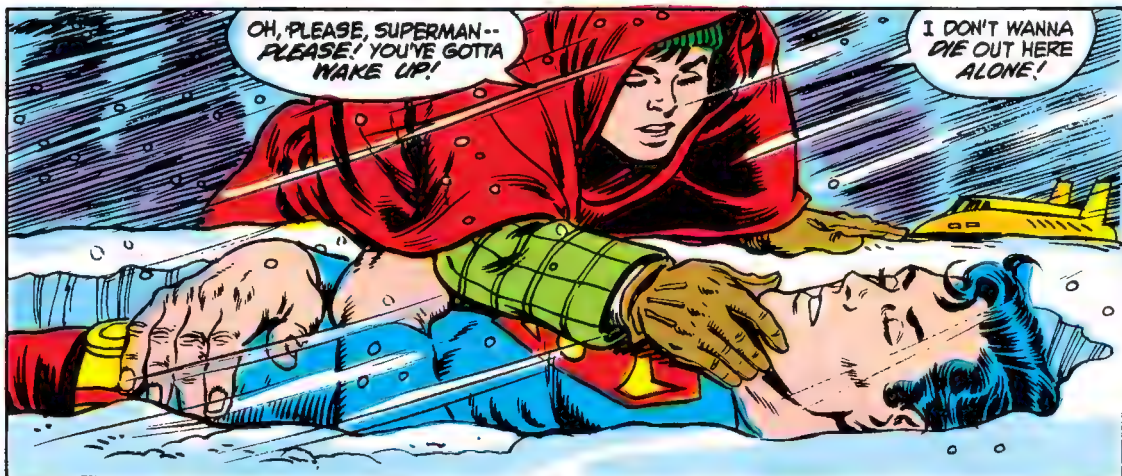
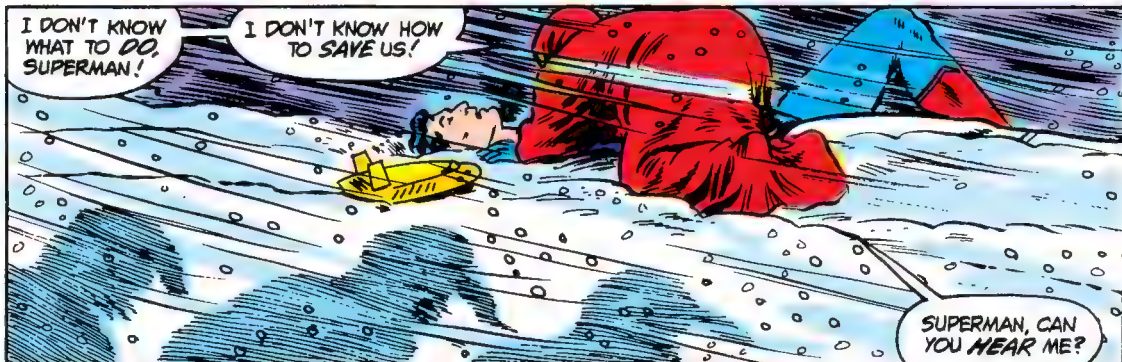
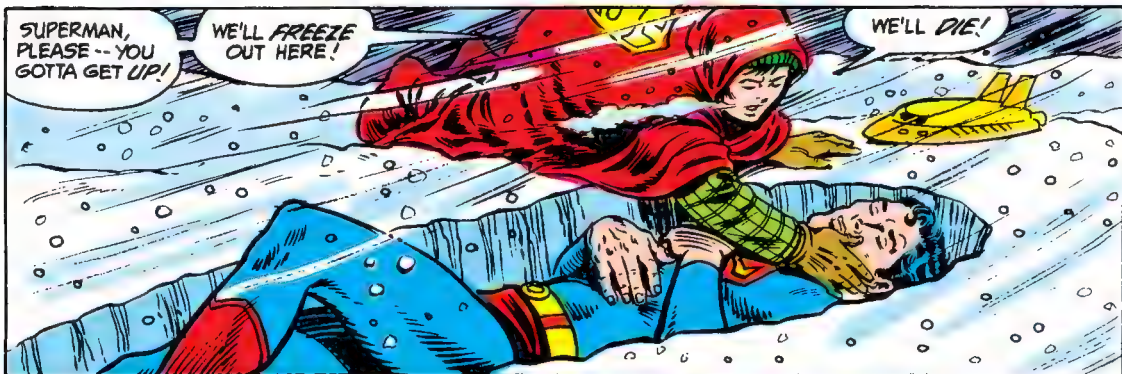
"--AN' THEN I DON'T REMEMBER NOTHIN' TILL I WOKE UP HERE!"

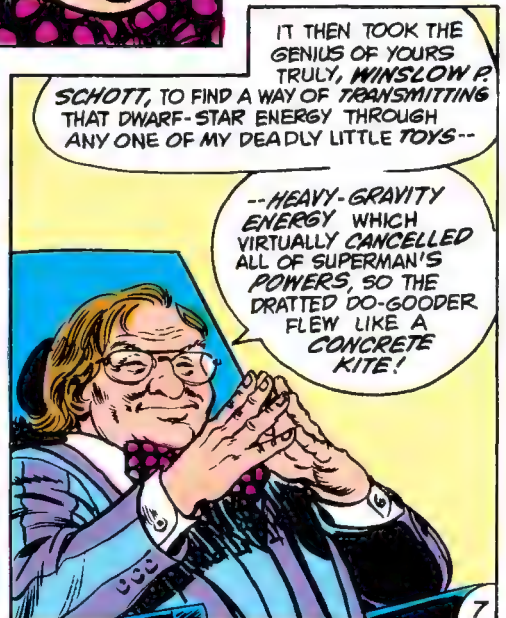
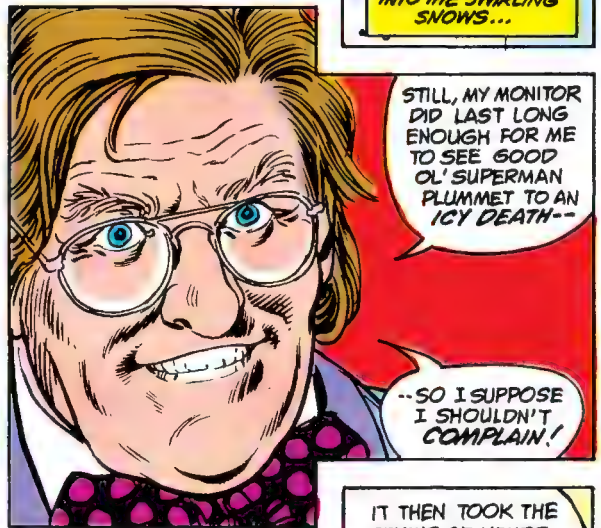
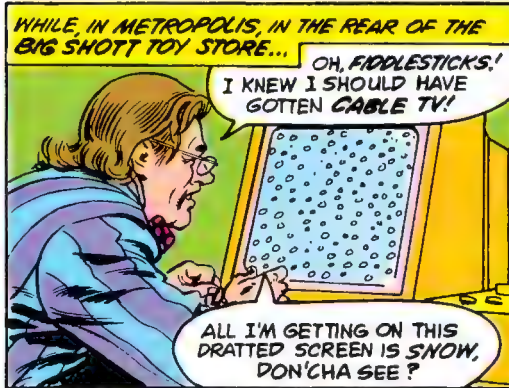
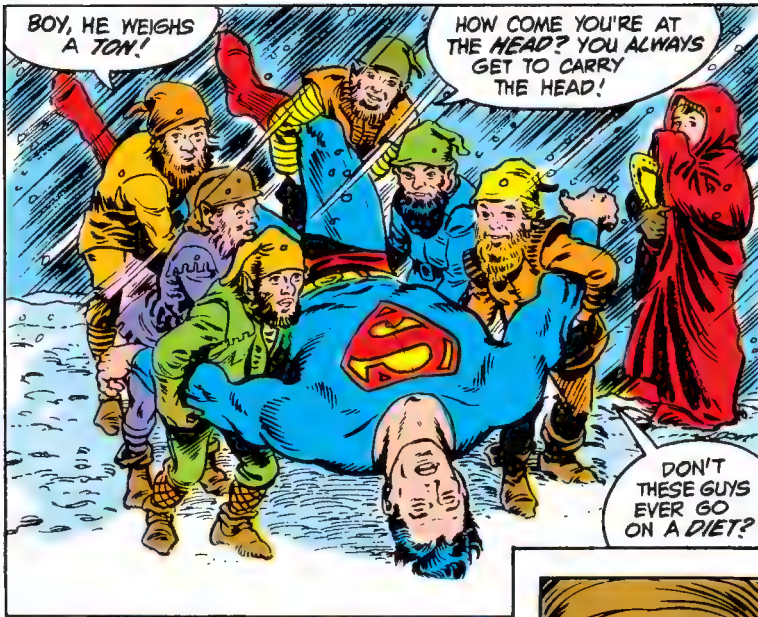
"WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO ME...?"

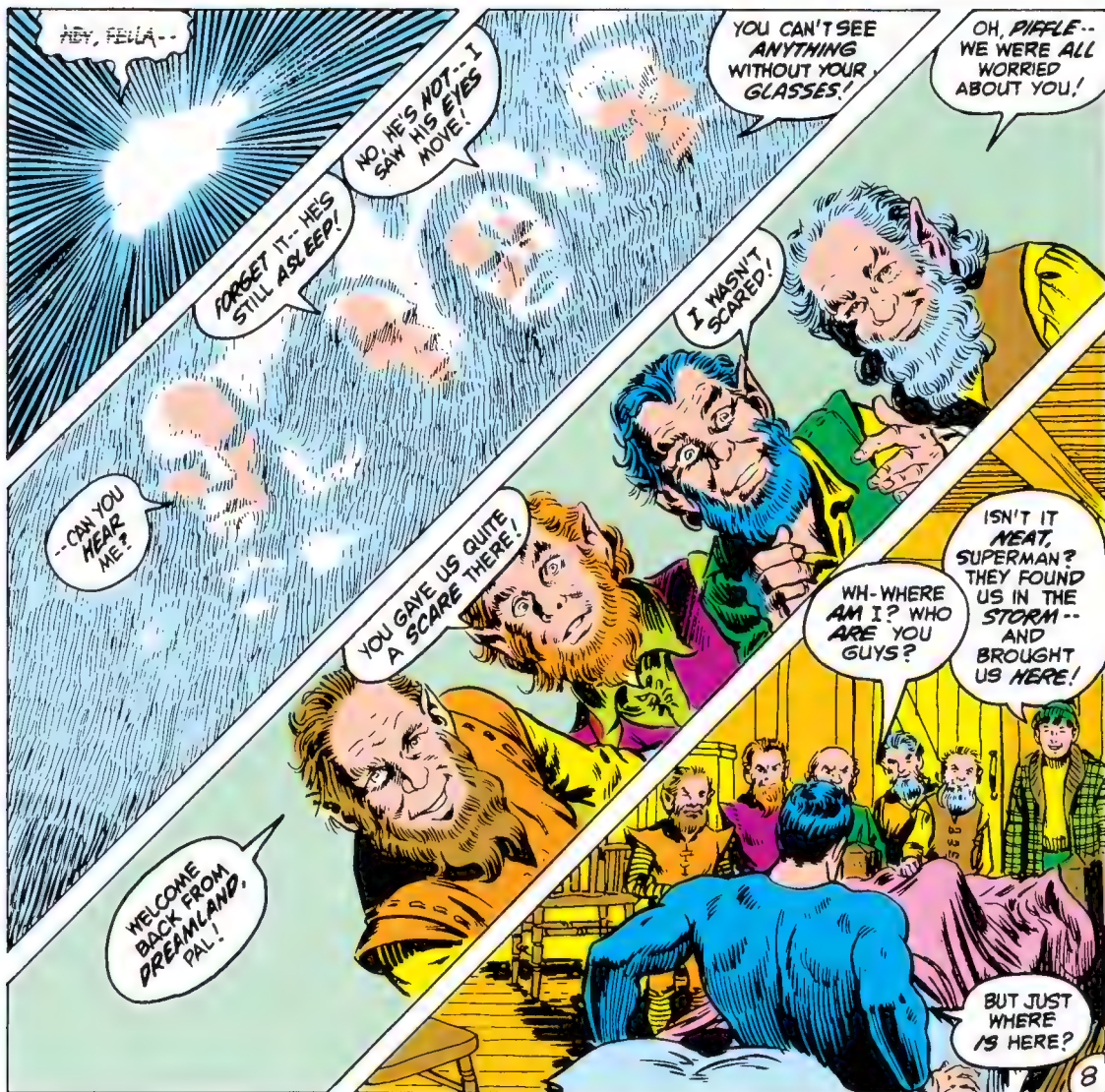
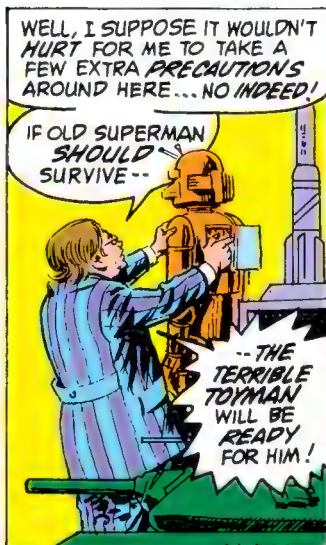
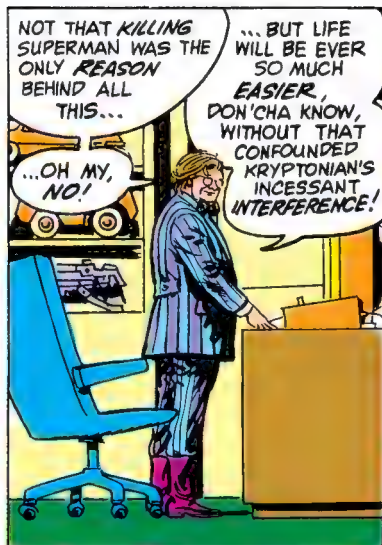
3

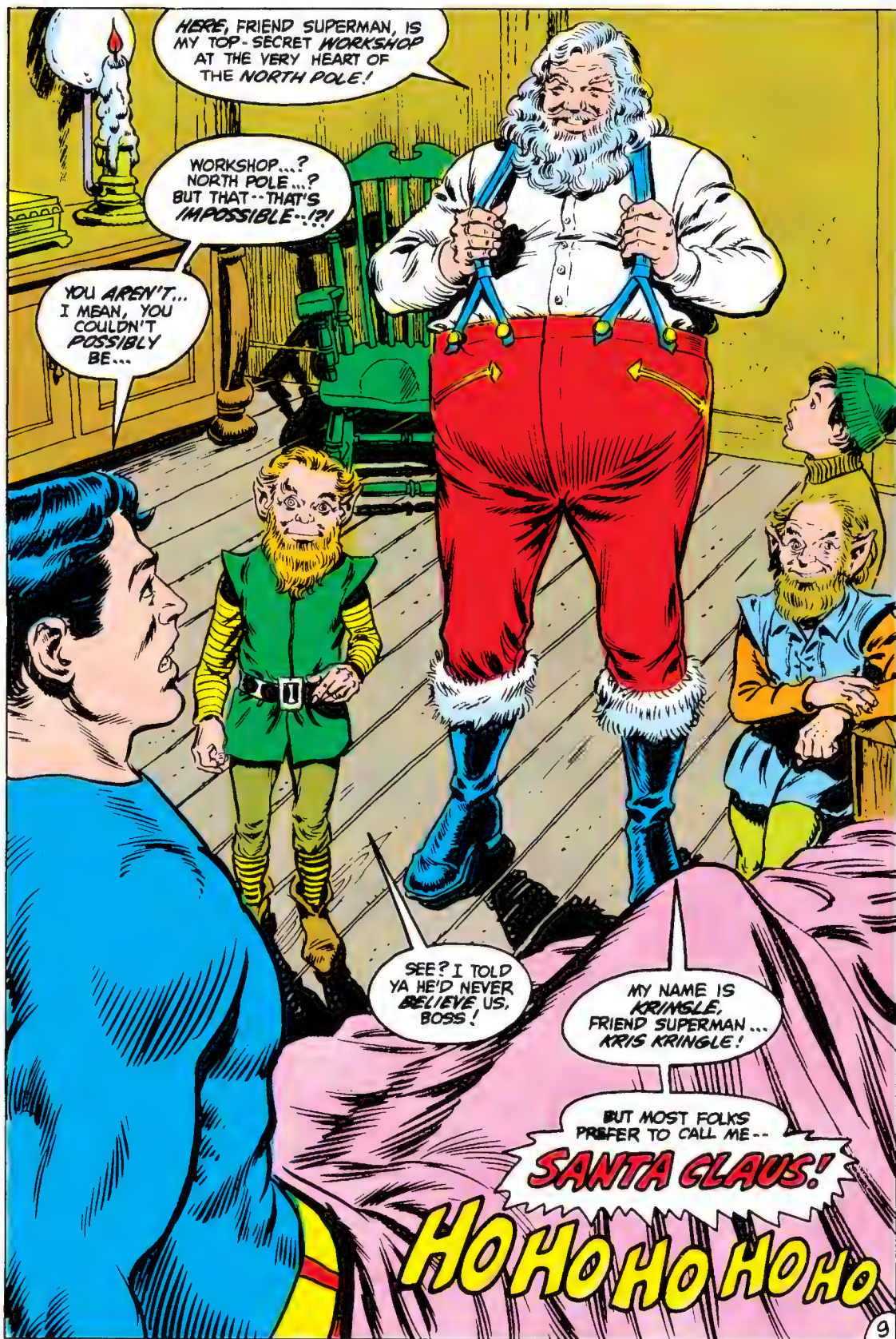












HERE, FRIEND SUPERMAN, IS MY TOP-SECRET WORKSHOP AT THE VERY HEART OF THE NORTH POLE!

WORKSHOP...? NORTH POLE...? BUT THAT--THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE--!?!

YOU AREN'T... I MEAN, YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE...

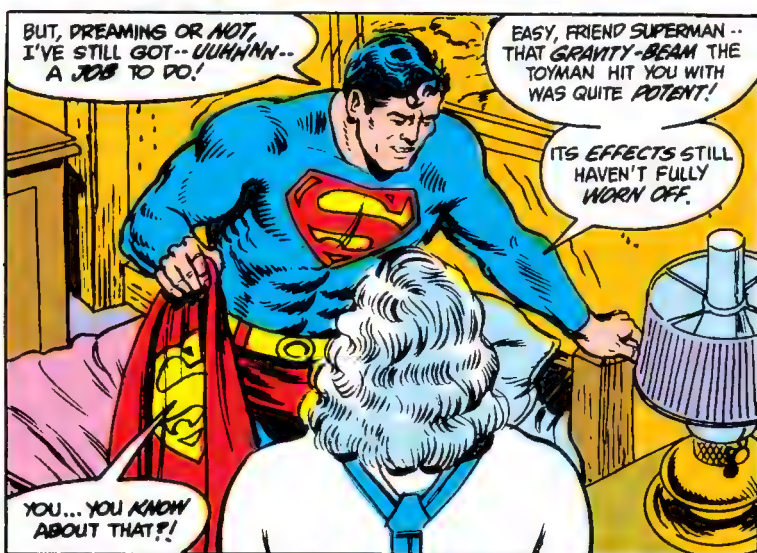
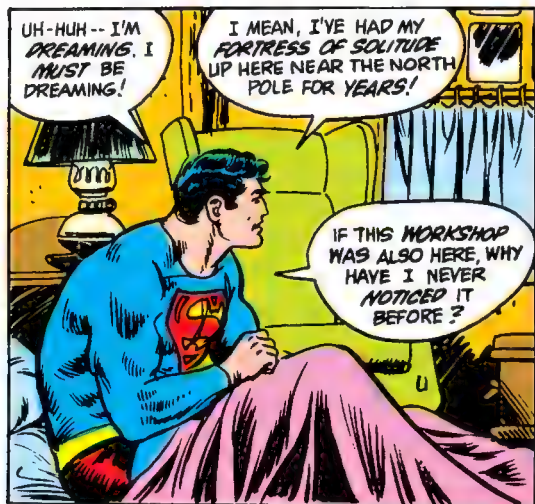
SEE? I TOLD YA HE'D NEVER BELIEVE US, BOSS!

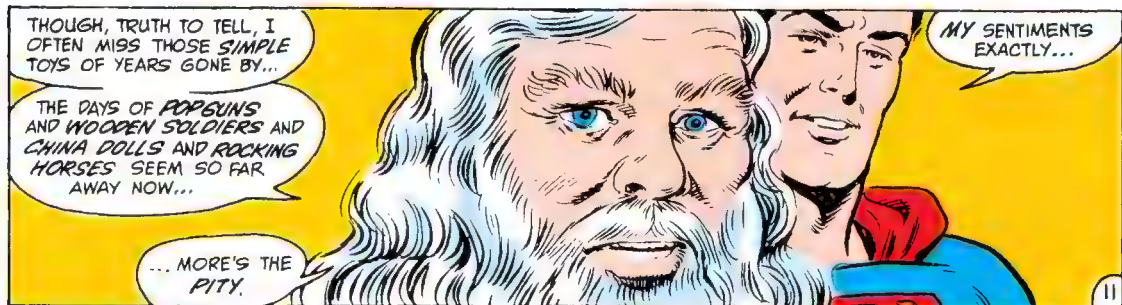
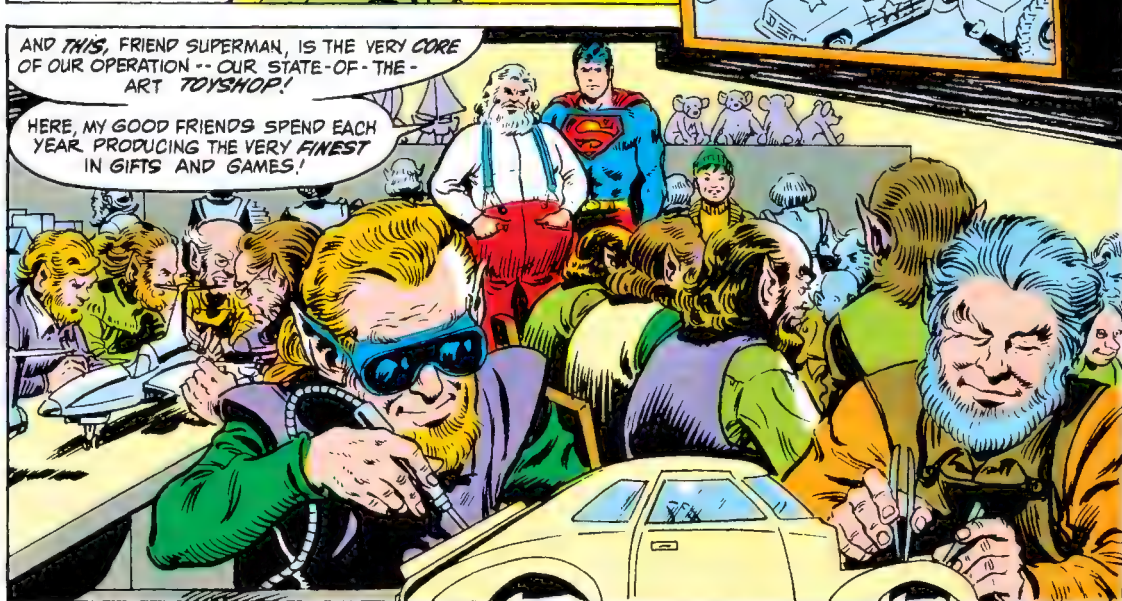
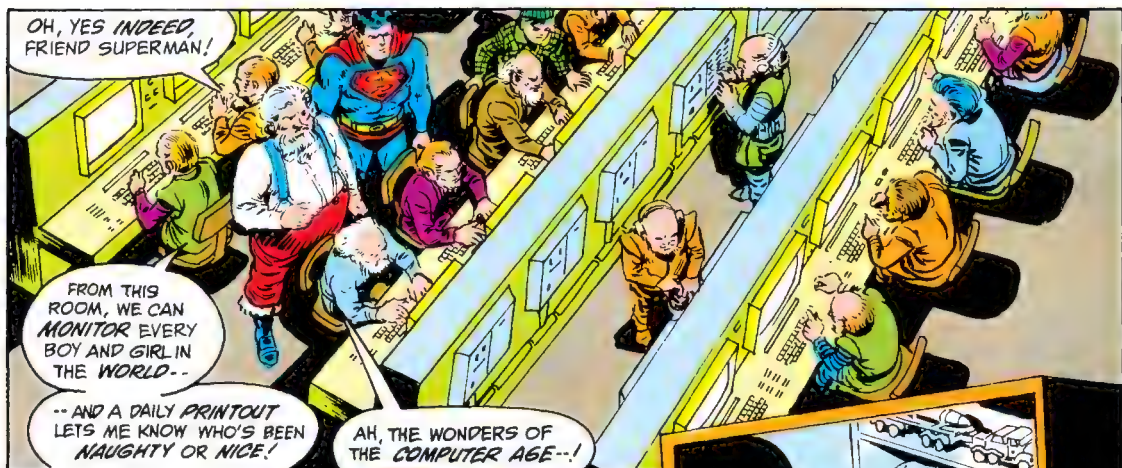
MY NAME IS KRINGLE, FRIEND SUPERMAN... KRIS KRINGLE!

BUT MOST FOLKS PREFER TO CALL ME--

SANTA CLAUS!

HOHOHO HOHO



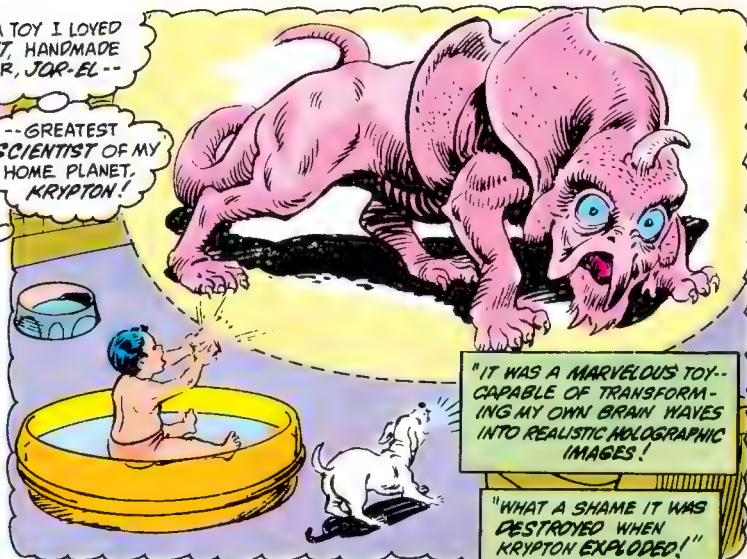




THE TOYS OF OUR CHILDHOOD ARE ALWAYS THE MOST PRECIOUS TO US...

I REMEMBER A TOY I LOVED AS AN INFANT, HANDMADE BY MY FATHER, JOR-EL--

--GREATEST SCIENTIST OF MY HOME PLANET, KRYPTON!



"IT WAS A MARVELOUS TOY--CAPABLE OF TRANSFORMING MY OWN BRAIN WAVES INTO REALISTIC HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGES!"

"WHAT A SHAME IT WAS DESTROYED WHEN KRYPTON EXPLODED!"

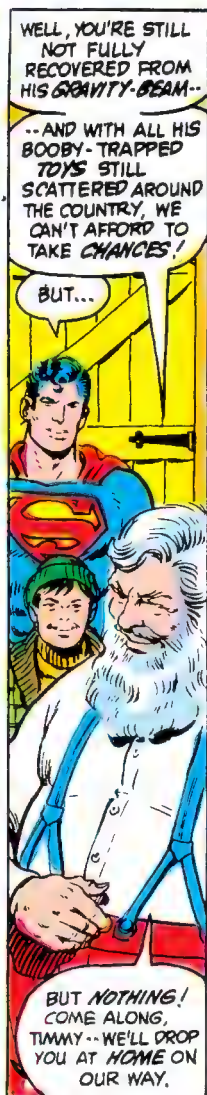


WELL, MY FRIEND, IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO! I HAVE A LOT TO DO TONIGHT--

--AND THERE'S STILL THE TOYMAN TO BE DEALT WITH!

DON'T WORRY--HE'S MY PROBLEM!

EVER THE NOBLE HERO, EH?

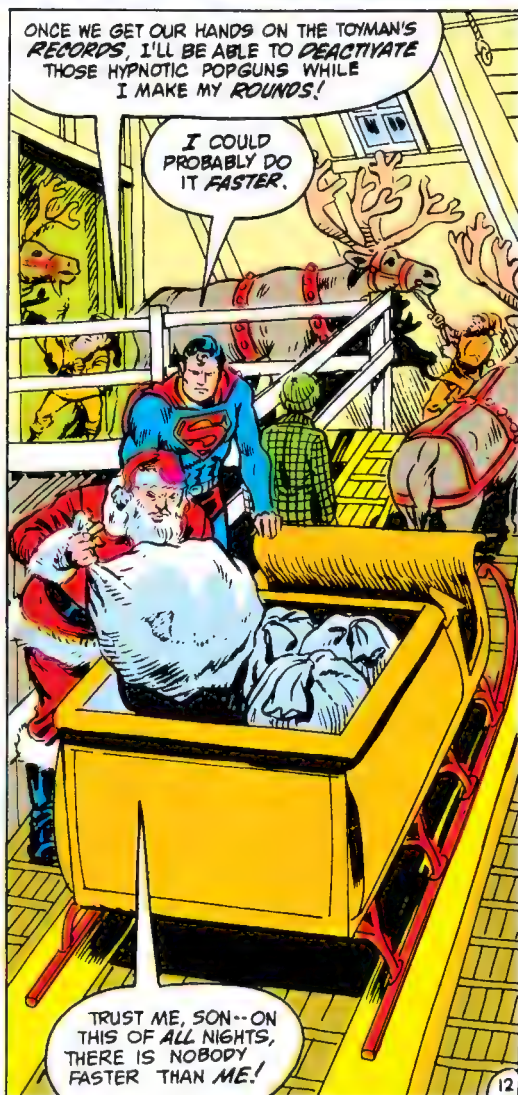


WELL, YOU'RE STILL NOT FULLY RECOVERED FROM HIS GRAVITY-BEAM--

--AND WITH ALL HIS BOOBY-TRAPPED TOYS STILL SCATTERED AROUND THE COUNTRY, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE CHANCES!

BUT...

BUT NOTHING! COME ALONG, TIMMY--WE'LL DROP YOU AT HOME ON OUR WAY.



ONCE WE GET OUR HANDS ON THE TOYMAN'S RECORDS, I'LL BE ABLE TO DEACTIVATE THOSE HYPNOTIC POPGUNS WHILE I MAKE MY ROUNDS!

I COULD PROBABLY DO IT FASTER.

TRUST ME, SON--ON THIS OF ALL NIGHTS, THERE IS NOBODY FASTER THAN ME!



NOW THE TIME
FOR TALK IS
DONE, MY FRIENDS--
IT'S TIME FOR
ACTION!

NOW, DASHER! NOW, DANCER!
NOW, PRANCER AND VIXEN!
ON, COMET! ON, CUPID!
ON, DONDER AND
BLITZEN!

AND, WITH AN
UNCANNY GRACE,
THE EIGHT MIGHTY
REINDEER TAKE
TO THE STARLIT
SKY...



WELL, IF I AM
DREAMING--

--I'M
BEGINNING TO
HOPE I NEVER
WAKE UP!



HOW ARE
YOU FEELING,
SUPERMAN?

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME,
FRIEND!

I'VE BEEN BLASTED BY THE BEST
OF 'EM IN MY TIME, AND THEY
HAVEN'T KEPT ME DOWN--



--YET?

UH-OH--LOOKS
LIKE I SPOKE
TOO SOON--!

FEELING
DIZZY AGAIN--
MY LIMBS LIKE
ANCHORS--!



I'M GONNA
CRASH--AND
CRASH--

--HARD?!

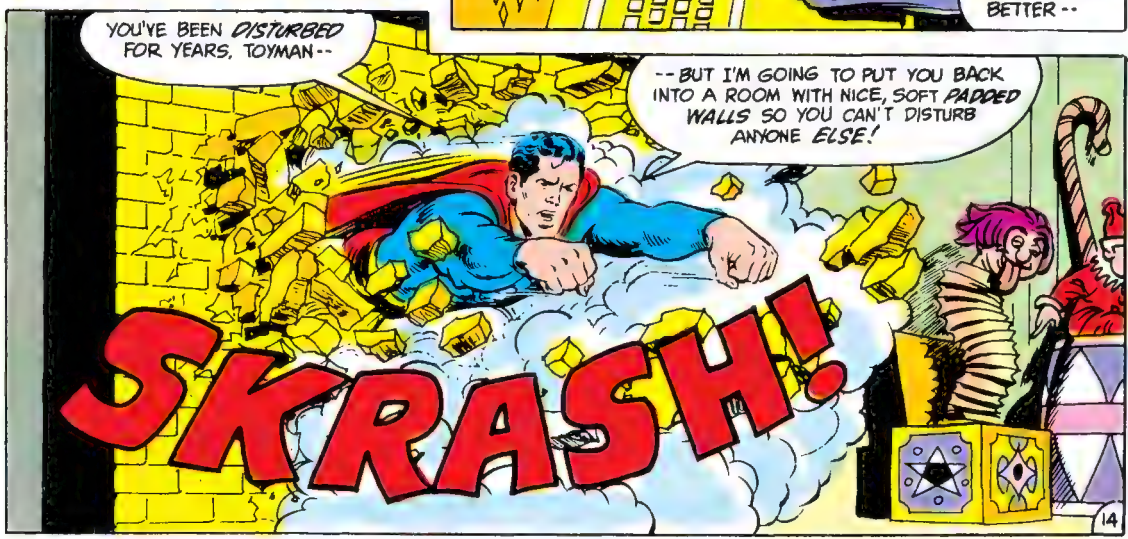
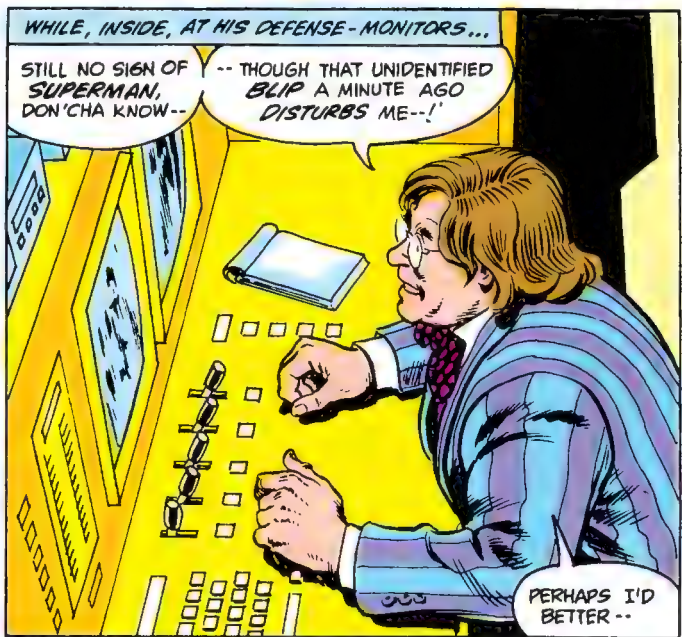
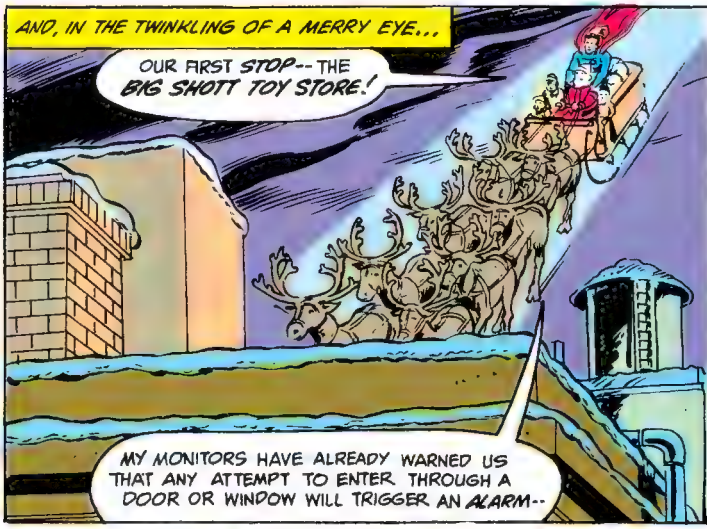
HUH? I
LANDED LIGHT
AS A
FEATHER--!?

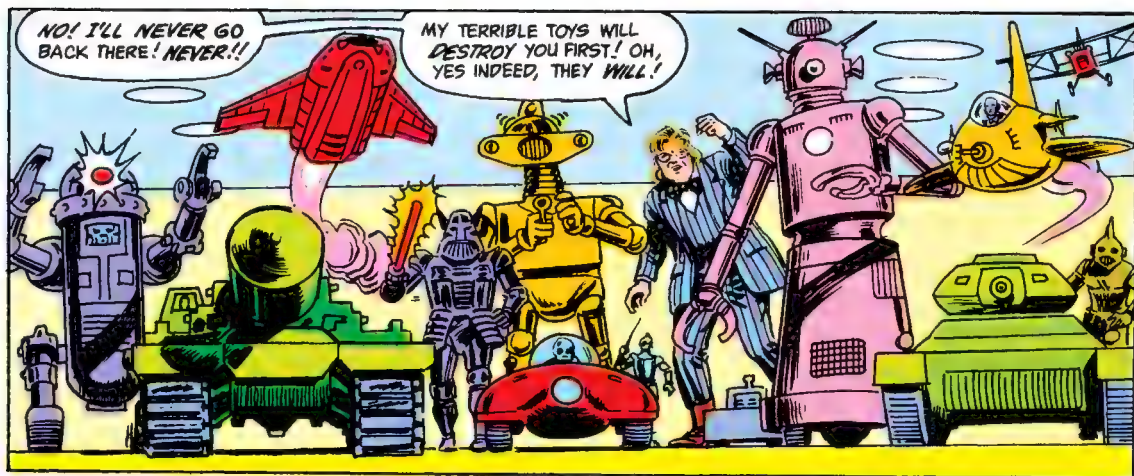


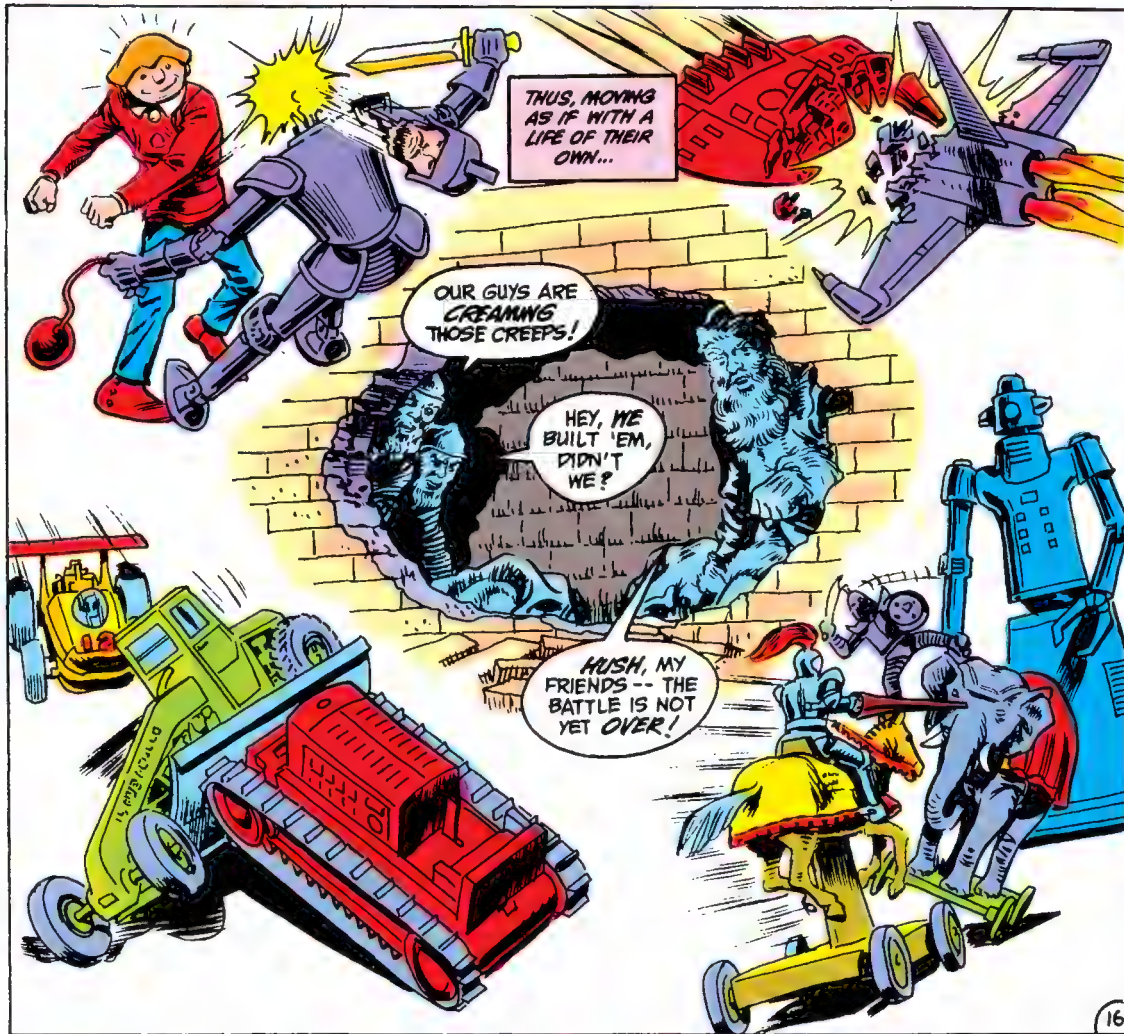
BUT MY
WEIGHT
SHOULD
HAVE CARRIED
ME CLEAN
THROUGH
THIS
SLEIGH--!

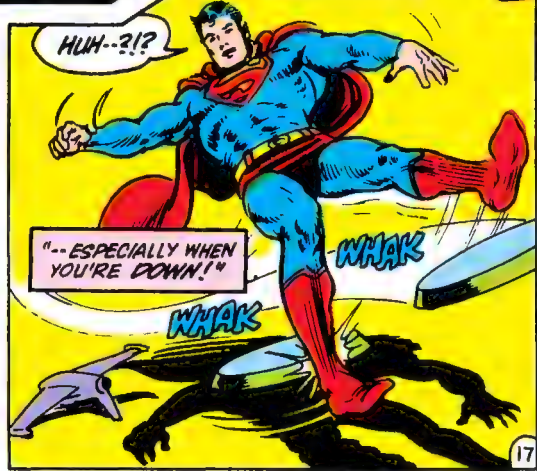
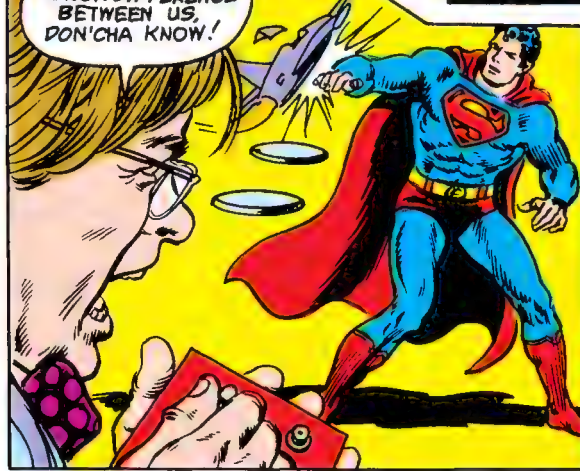
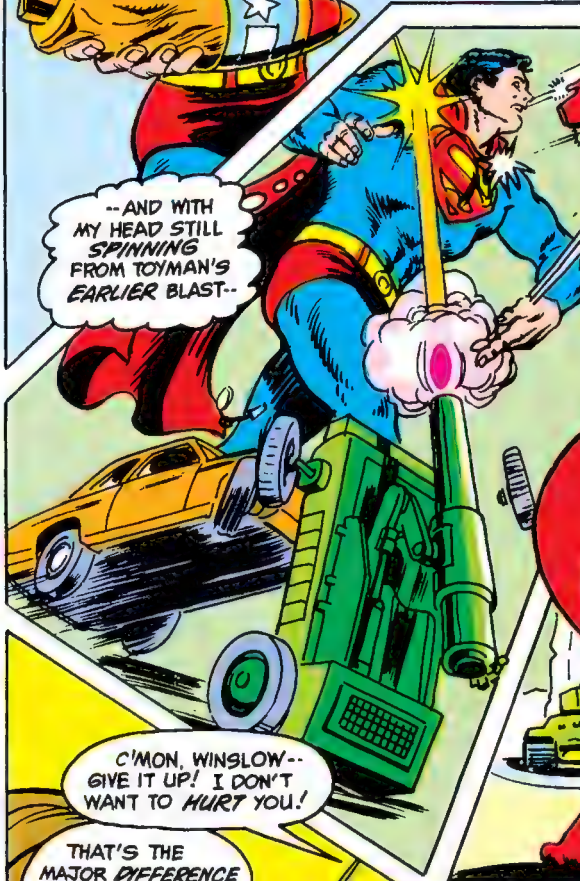
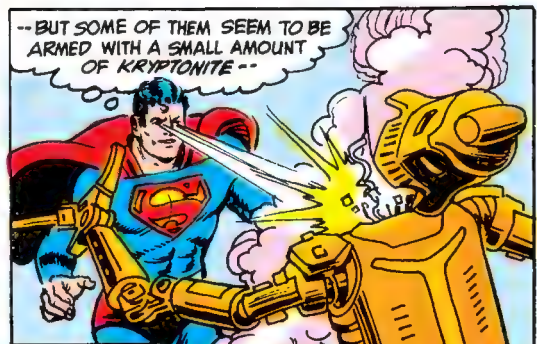
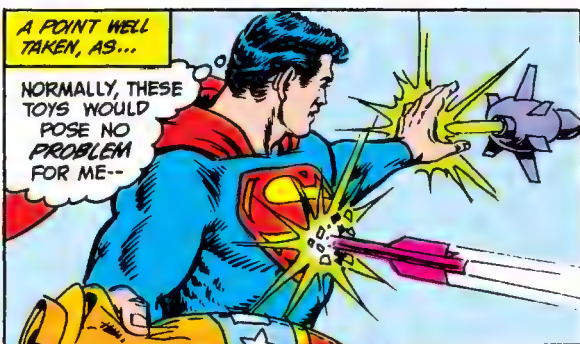
MY SLEIGH WAS
BUILT TO CARRY
A FAR GREATER
WEIGHT THAN
YOURS, FRIEND
SUPERMAN--

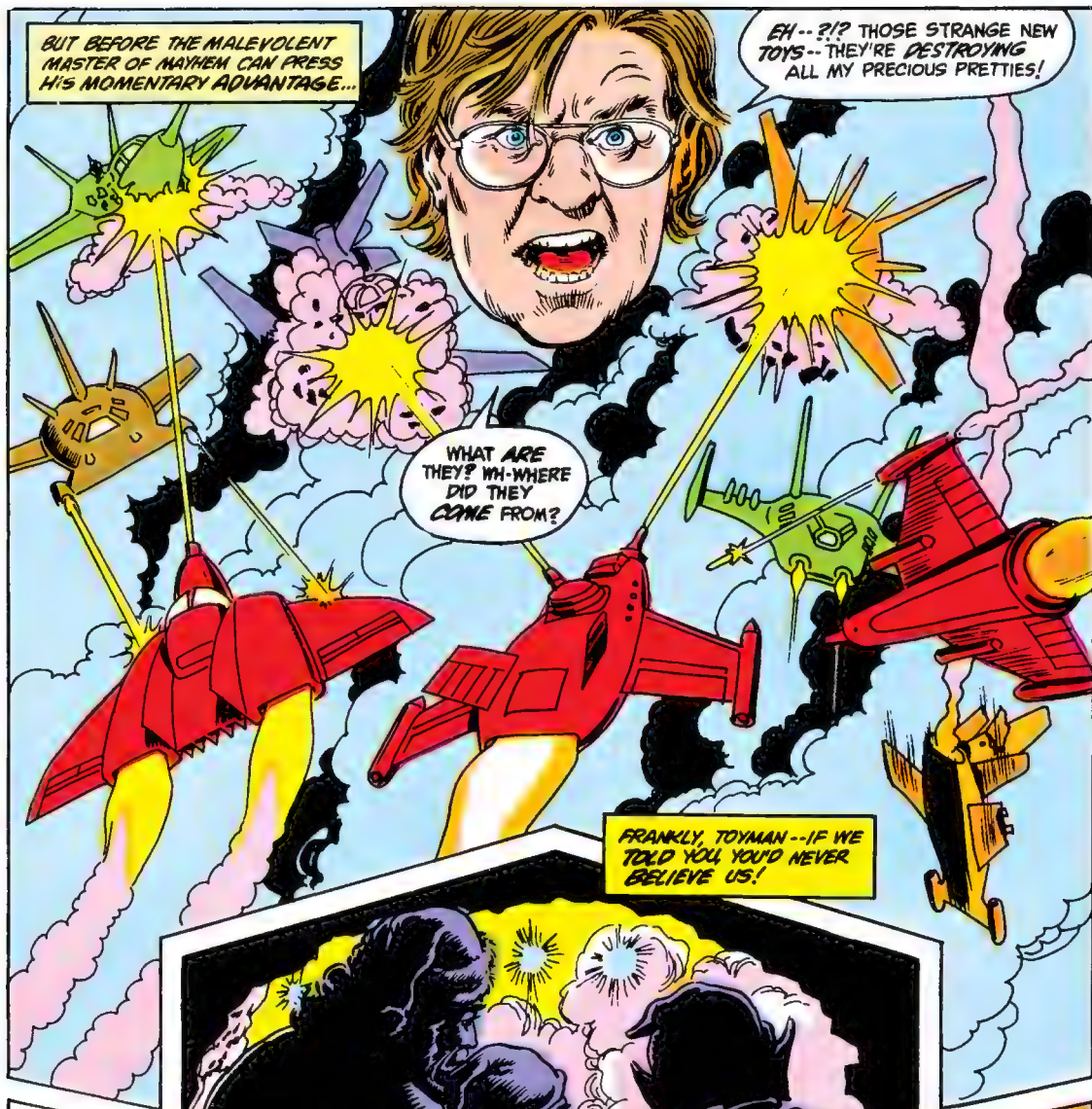
--FOR IT CARRIES
THE HOPES AND
DREAMS OF A WORLD-
FUL OF CHILDREN!

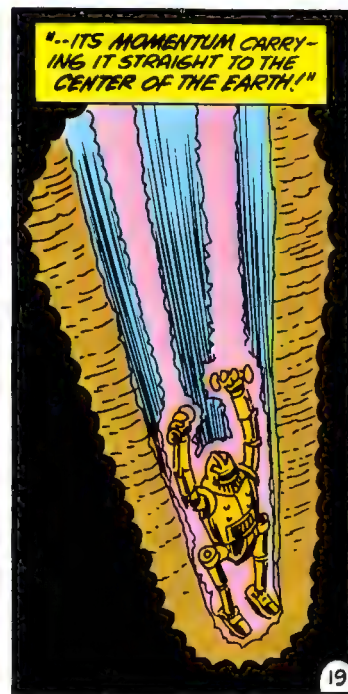
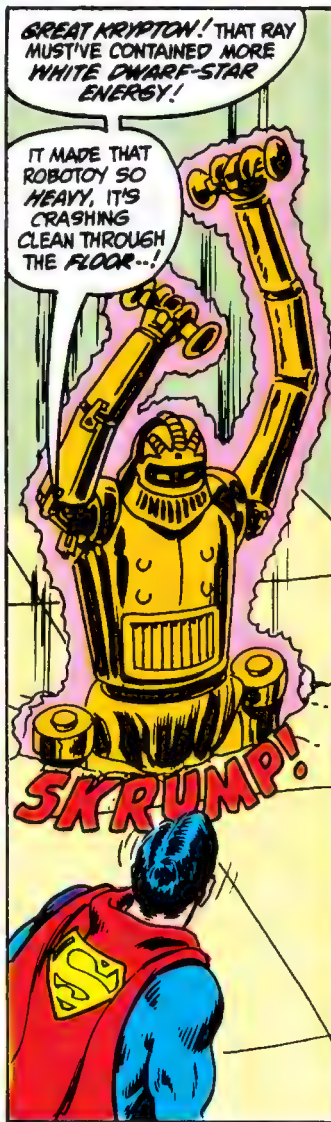
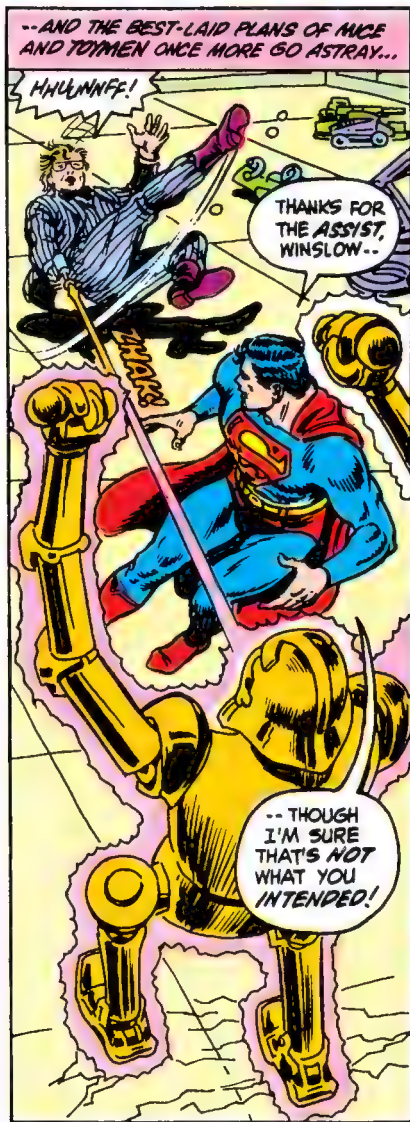
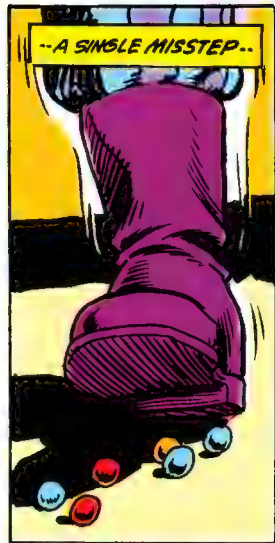
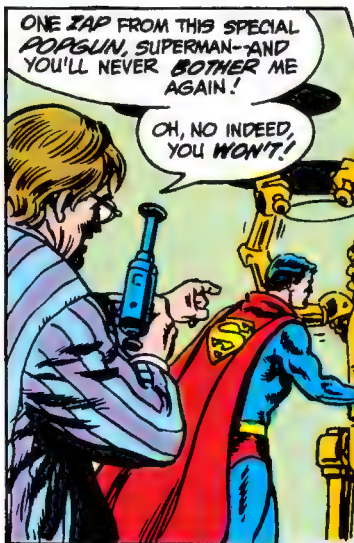


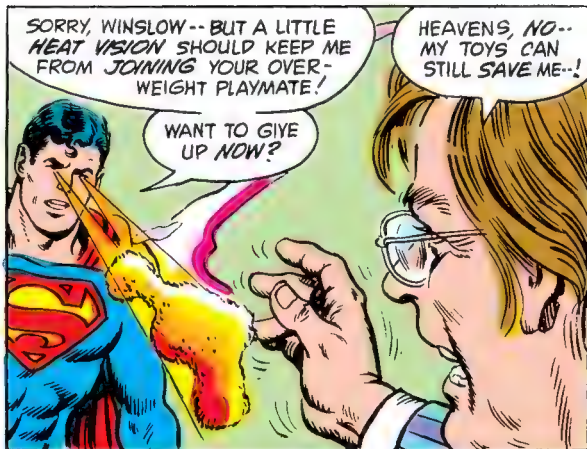












SORRY, WINSLOW-- BUT A LITTLE HEAT VISION SHOULD KEEP ME FROM JOINING YOUR OVER-WEIGHT PLAYMATE!

HEAVENS, NO-- MY TOYS CAN STILL SAVE ME--!

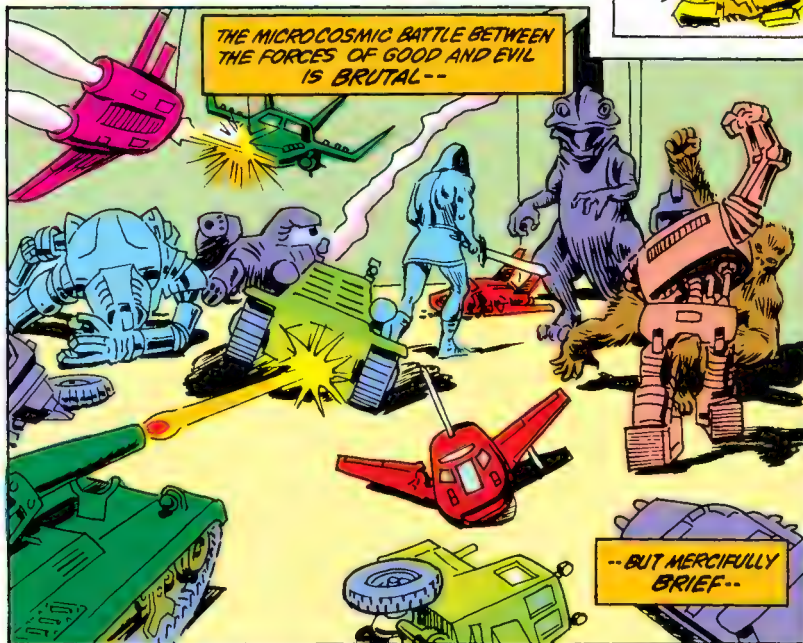
WANT TO GIVE UP NOW?



SANTA-- LOOK! ALL THOSE DEADLY TOYS-- CLOSING IN ON SUPERMAN--!

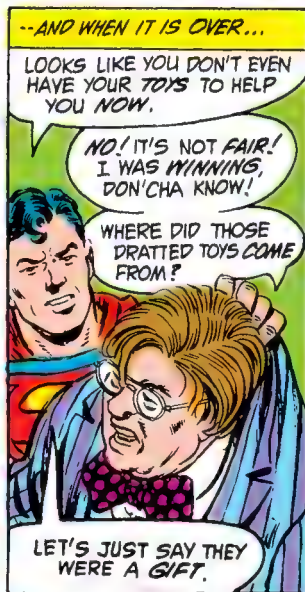
DON'T WORRY, SON! THAT'S JUST THE LAST-DITCH EFFORT OF A DESPERATE MAN--

--AND A RATHER FEEBLE EFFORT AT THAT!



THE MICRO COSMIC BATTLE BETWEEN THE FORCES OF GOOD AND EVIL IS BRUTAL--

--BUT MERCIFULLY BRIEF--



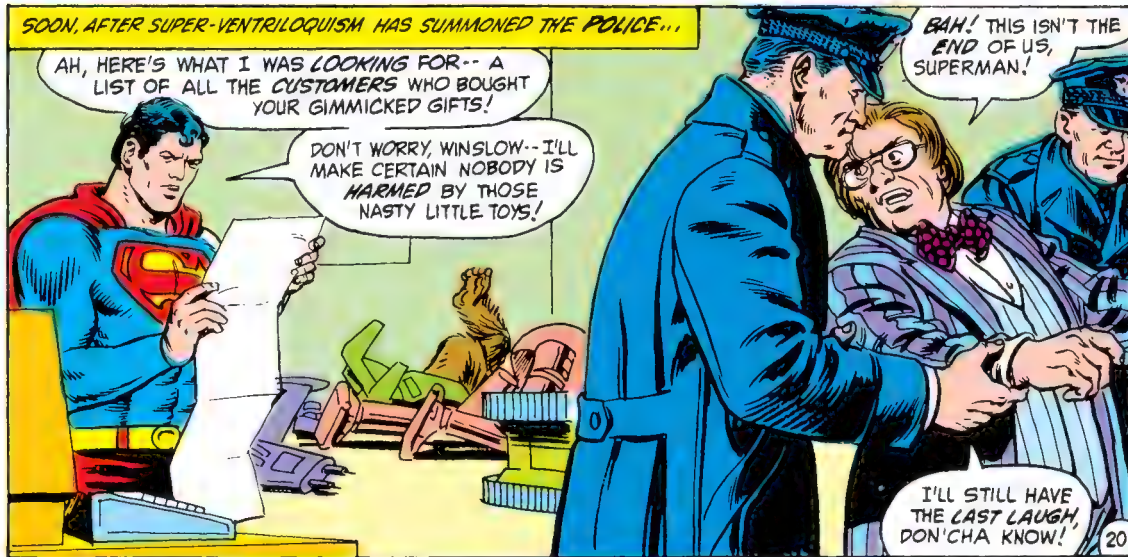
--AND WHEN IT IS OVER...

LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE YOUR TOYS TO HELP YOU NOW.

NO! IT'S NOT FAIR! I WAS WINNING, DON'CHA KNOW!

WHERE DID THOSE DRATTED TOYS COME FROM?

LET'S JUST SAY THEY WERE A GIFT.



SOON, AFTER SUPER-VENTRILOQUISM HAS SUMMONED THE POLICE...

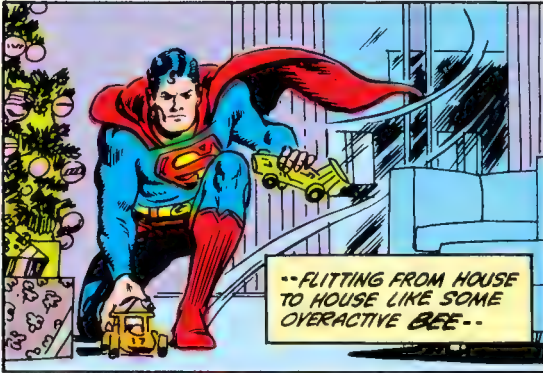
AH, HERE'S WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR-- A LIST OF ALL THE CUSTOMERS WHO BOUGHT YOUR GIMMICKED GIFTS!

DON'T WORRY, WINSLOW-- I'LL MAKE CERTAIN NOBODY IS HARMED BY THOSE NASTY LITTLE TOYS!

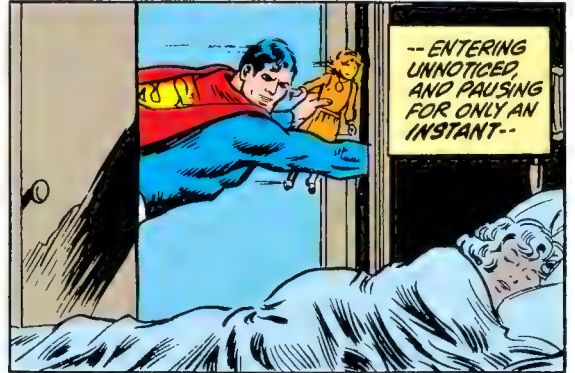
BAH! THIS ISN'T THE END OF US, SUPERMAN!

I'LL STILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH, DON'CHA KNOW!

MOMENTS LATER, A RED-AND-BLUE BLUR SCORES THE STAR-SWEPT SKIES--

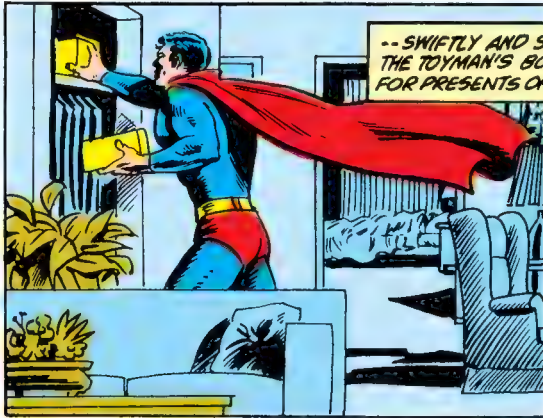


--FLITTING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE LIKE SOME OVERACTIVE BEE--

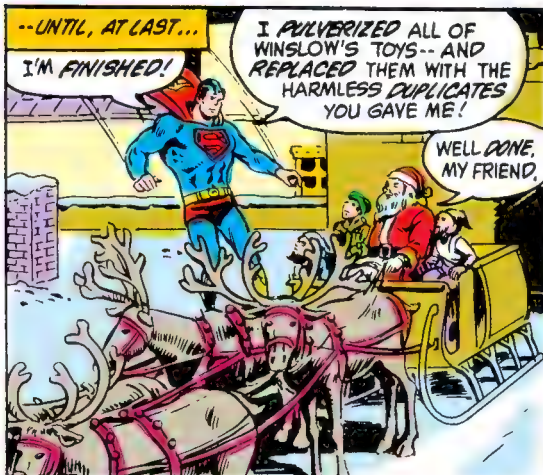
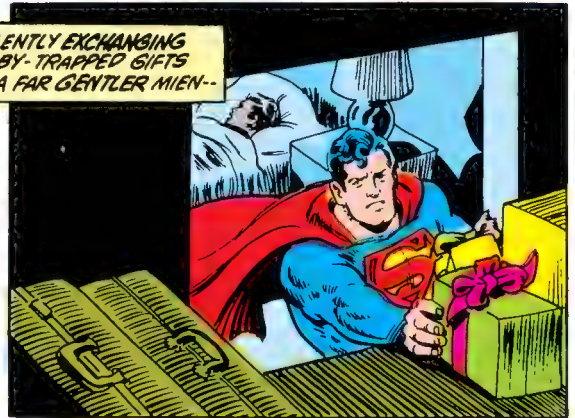


-- ENTERING UNNOTICED AND PAUSING FOR ONLY AN INSTANT--

-- BEFORE MOVING ON AGAIN ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE--



-- SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY EXCHANGING THE TOYMAN'S BOOBY-TRAPPED GIFTS FOR PRESENTS OF A FAR GENTLER MIEN--



--UNTIL, AT LAST... I'M FINISHED!

I PULVERIZED ALL OF WINSLOW'S TOYS-- AND REPLACED THEM WITH THE HARMLESS DUPLICATES YOU GAVE ME!

WELL DONE, MY FRIEND.

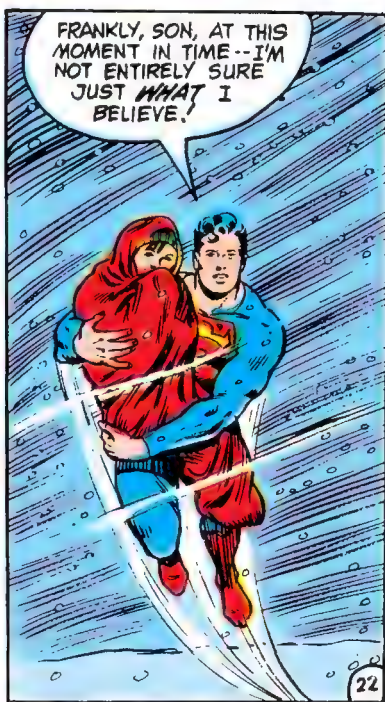
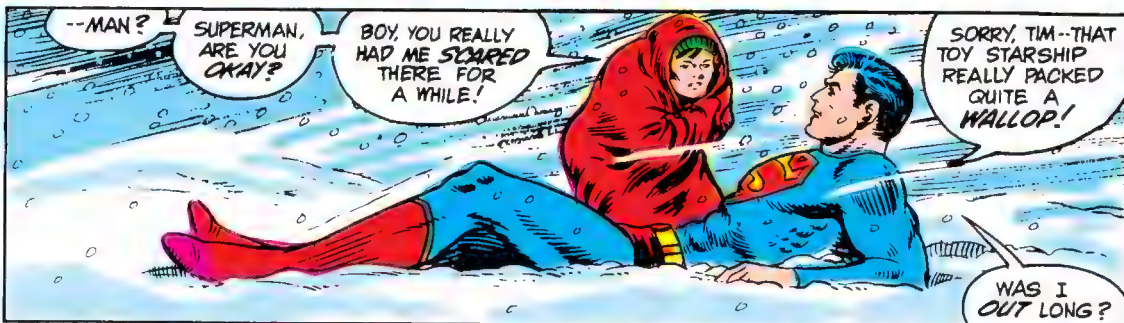
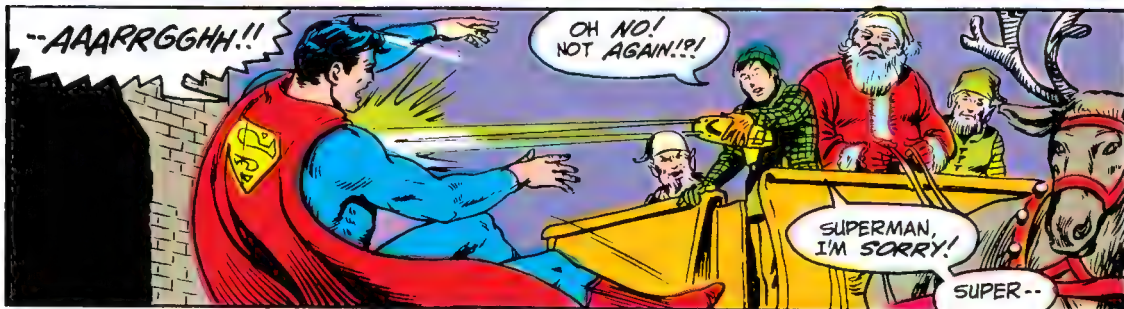


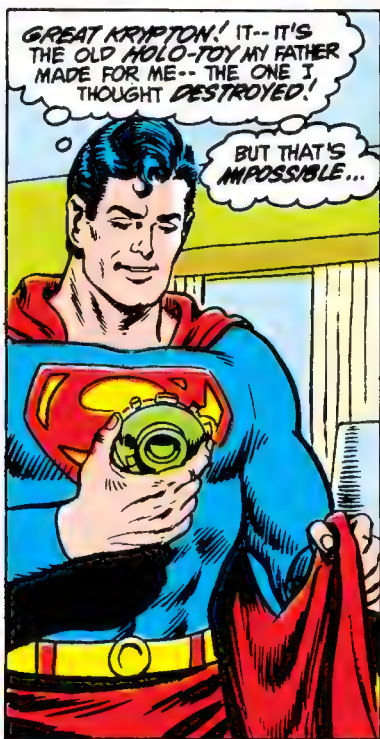
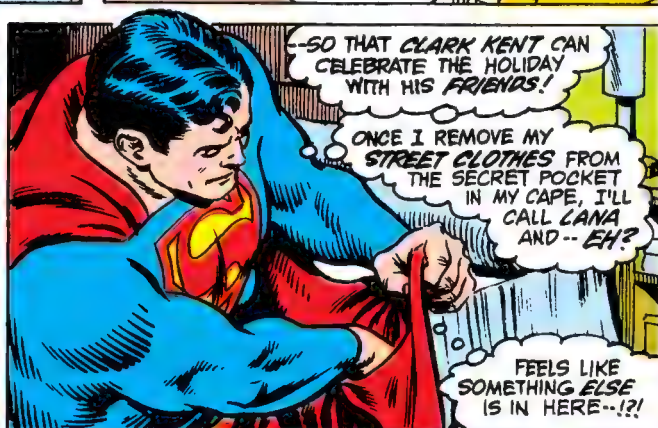
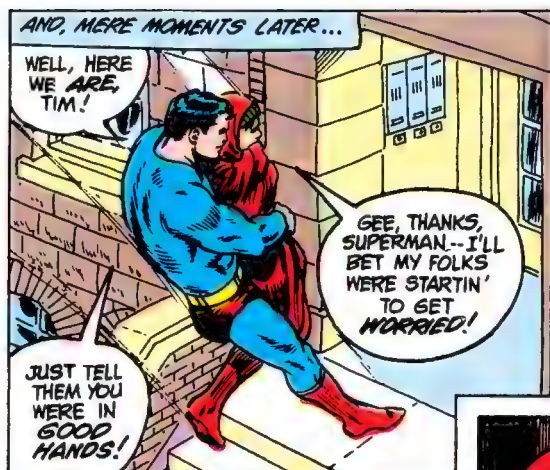
AND FROM THE EASE WITH WHICH I DID IT, I'D SAY THE TOYMAN'S HEAVY GRAVITY-BEAM HAS FINALLY WORN OFF!

THEN IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE MY LEAVE.

SEE TIMMY SAFELY HOME FOR ME, WON'T YOU?

MY PLEASURE... SANTA.





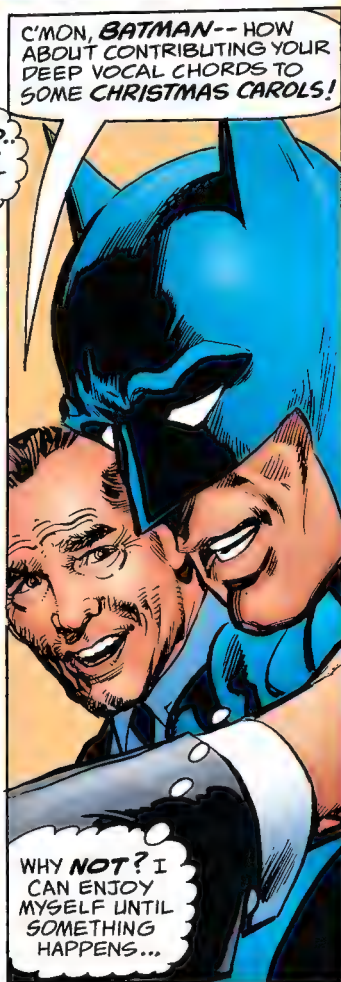
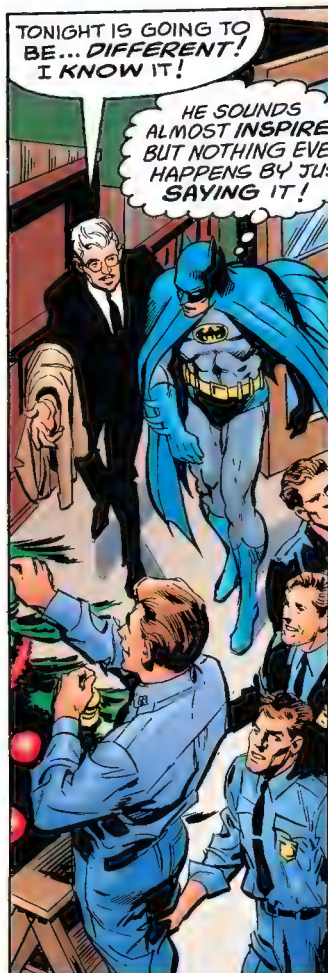
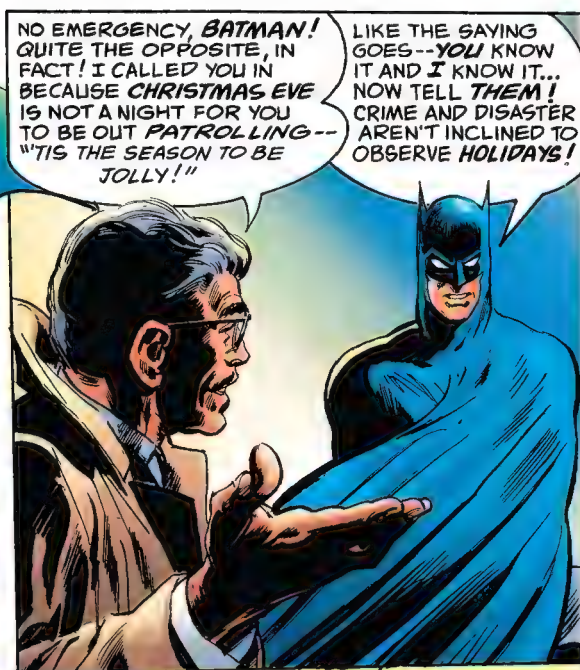
NIGHT FALLS ON CHRISTMAS EVE IN GOTHAM, THE SIDEWALKS BUSTLE WITH LAST-MINUTE SHOPPERS. A PEACEFUL--ALMOST HEAVENLY SCENE-- WOULD INJUSTICE AND TRAGEDY DARE CREEP IN ? THERE IS TOO MUCH CONTRARY EXPERIENCE TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE FOR ... **THE BATMAN!**

THEN, AS THE EERIE **BAT-SIGNAL** SHIMMERS AGAINST A SNOW-FILLED CLOUD, THE ATMOSPHERE TAKES ON A **CELESTIAL** COMPOSITION. FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS, MYSTICS HAVE EXPERIENCED THE MANY MYSTERIES SURROUNDING **CHRISTMAS...**



TONIGHT THERE WILL BE ONE MORE ...

the Silent Night of the BATMAN

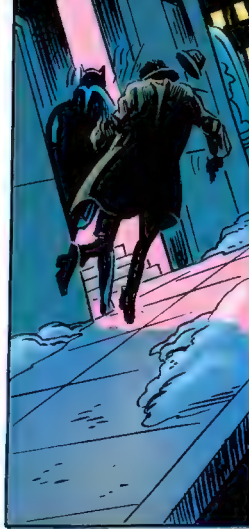


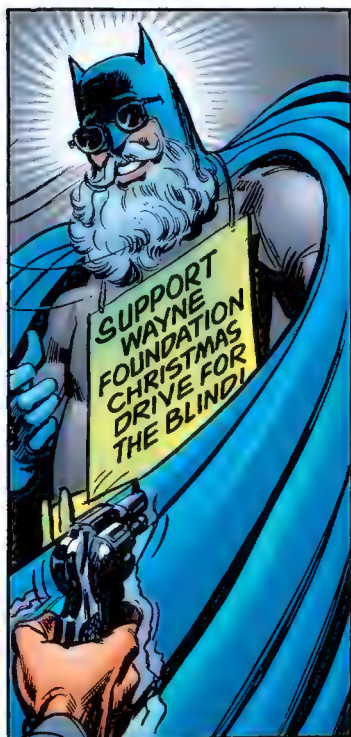




We three Kings of orient are

*Bearing Gifts we traverse
afar..*

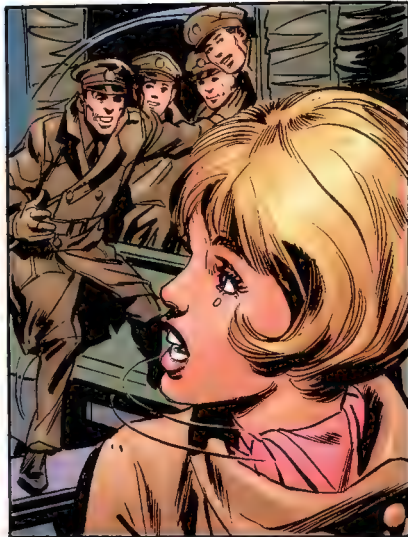
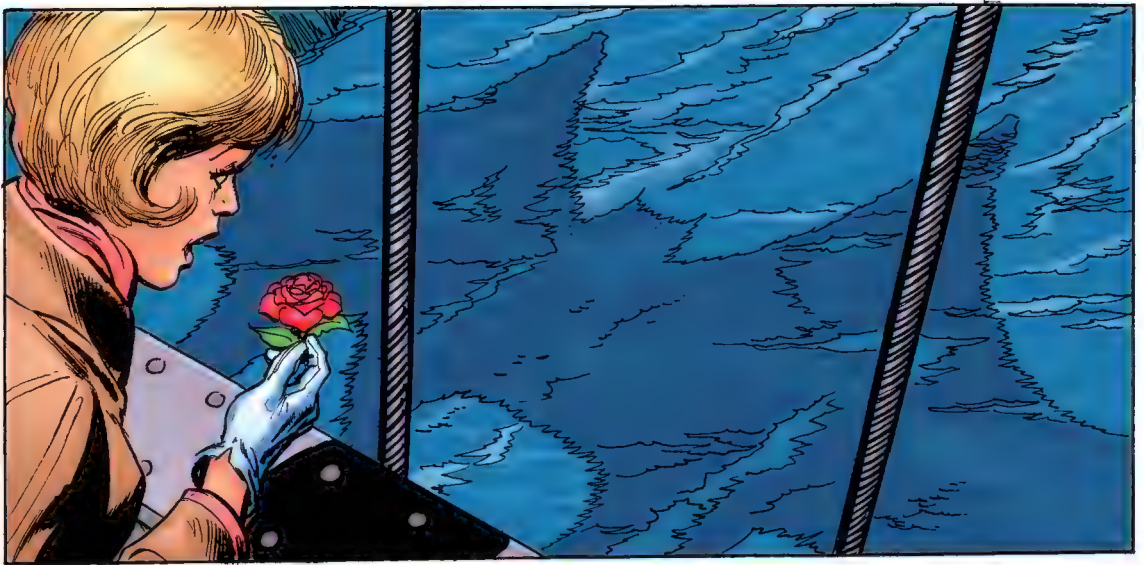
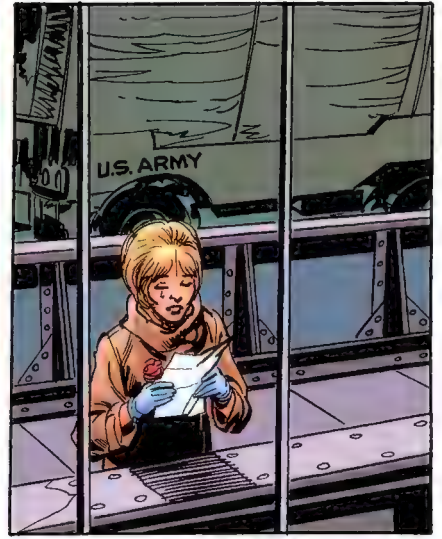
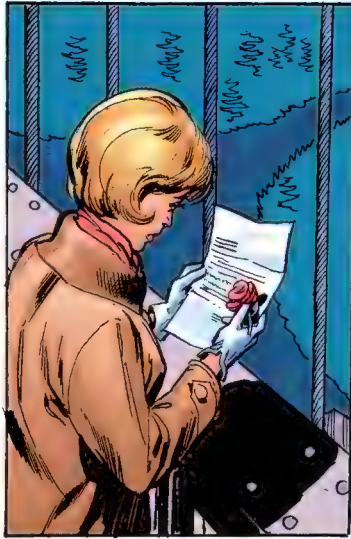


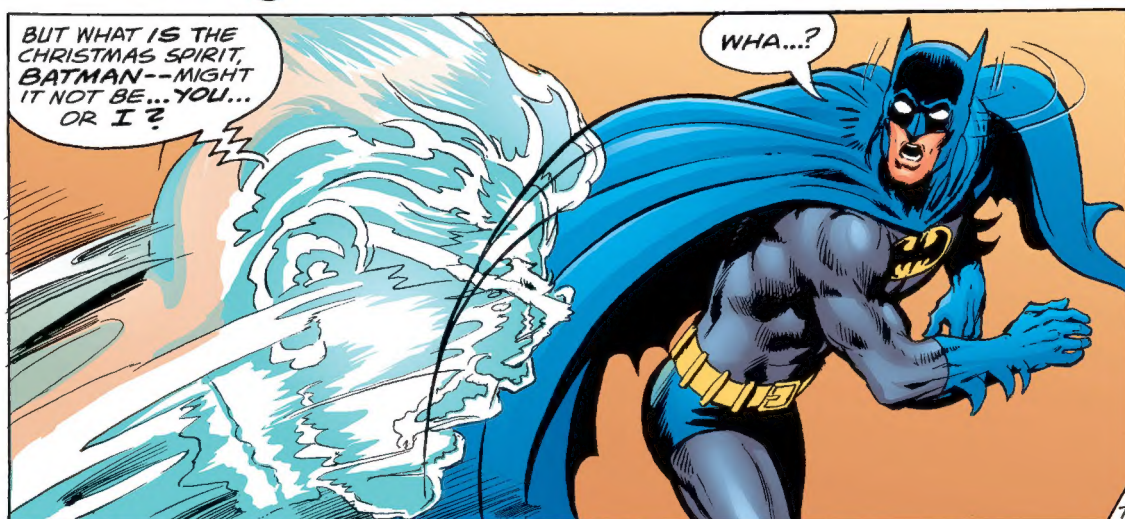


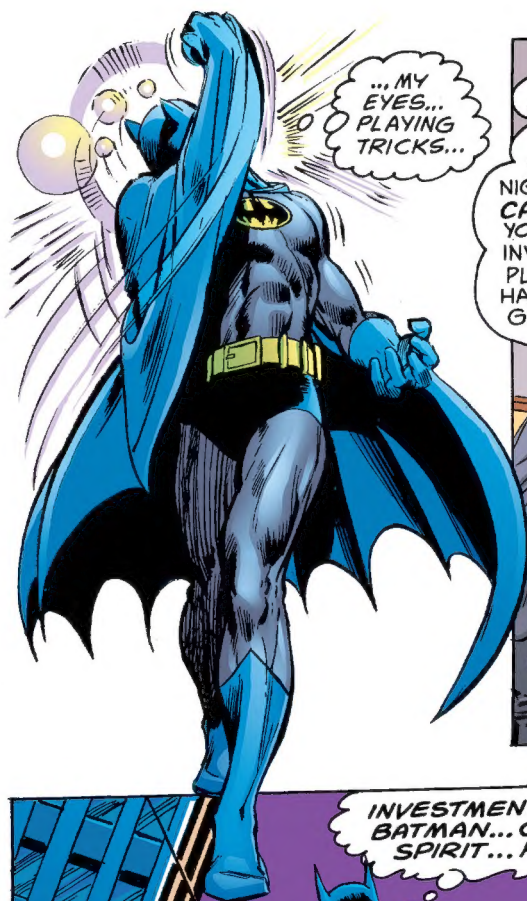
♪ you better watch out,
you better not cry,
you better not pout
♪ I'm telling you why ♪
Santa Claus is
coming to town... ♪
He's making a list

Checking it twice...









...MY EYES...
PLAYING TRICKS...



EH?
AMAZING--

WE'VE BEEN WAITING HERE ALL NIGHT AND NOT A SINGLE CALL HAS COME IN FOR YOU! IT APPEARS THE INVESTMENT YOU'VE PUT INTO THIS CITY HAS PAID OFF TONIGHT--GIVING YOU A NIGHT OFF!



INVESTMENT... SPIRIT OF BATMAN... CHRISTMAS SPIRIT... HMMM ...

AS THE SPIRIT OF THE PEACEFUL NIGHT BECOMES ONE WITH THE CITY, DAWN CREEPS AND COVERS THE SKYLINE AND A NEW DAY BEGINS...

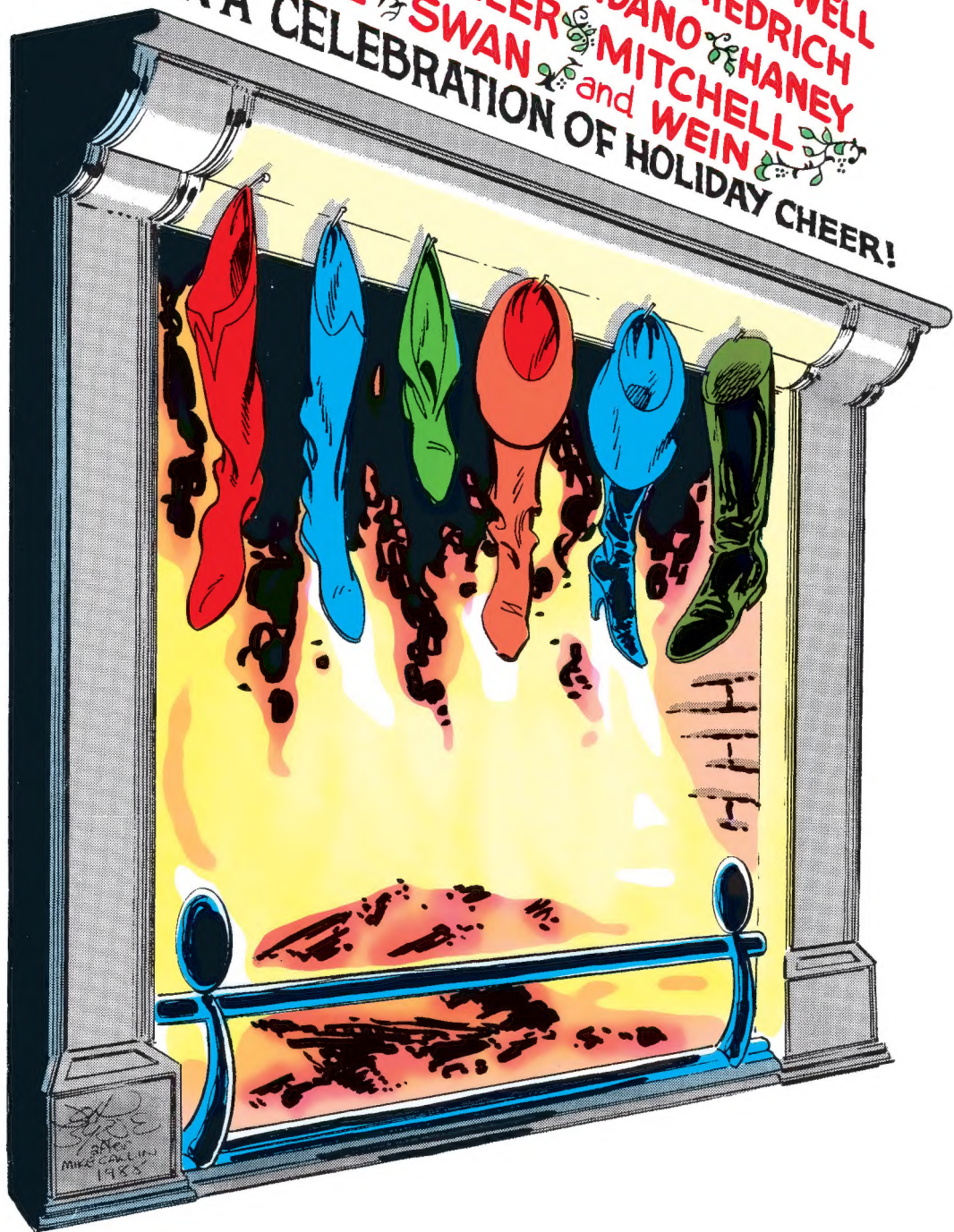
FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS, MYSTICS HAVE EXPERIENCED THE MANY MYSTERIES SURROUNDING CHRISTMAS. TODAY THERE IS ONE MORE...

the Silent Night of the BATMAN

IN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON OF GOOD WILL,
PEACE FROM--
MIKE FRIEDRICH... writer

NEAL ADAMS & DICK GIORDANO... artists JULIE SCHWARTZ... editor

JOIN
ADAMS ANDERSON BRIDWELL
CARDY DILLIN FRIEDRICH
GARCIA-LOPEZ GIORDANO HANEY
LEVITZ MILLER MITCHELL
O'NEIL SWAN and WEIN
IN A CELEBRATION OF HOLIDAY CHEER!



SALES
MICK CARLIN
1985

From Baaldur, with love...

GLORITH

